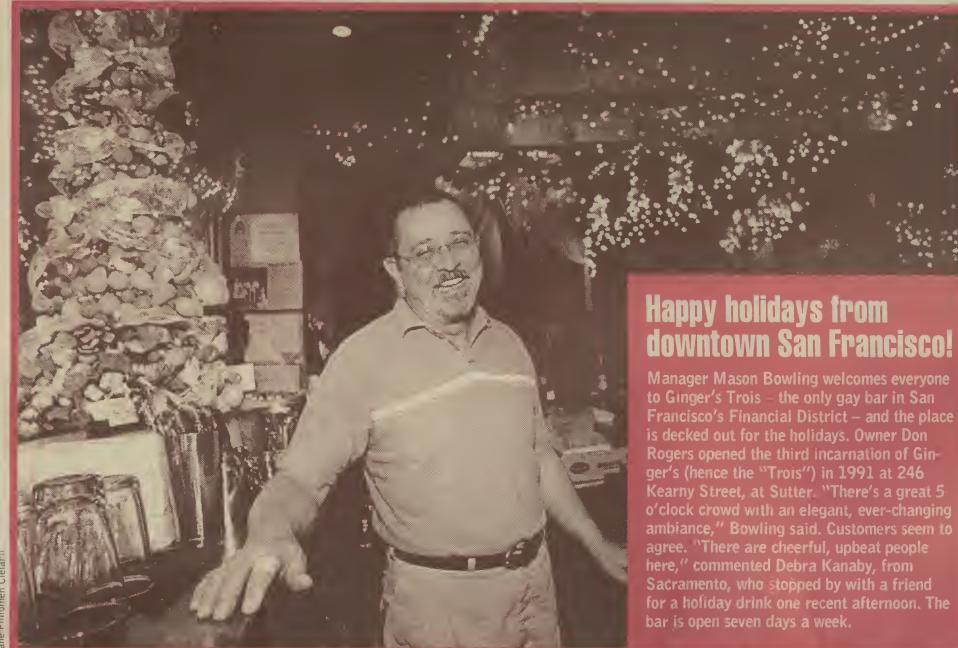


Happy holidays from everyone at the B.A.R.

# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 52 • 25 December 2003

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Jane Philomen Cleary

## Happy holidays from downtown San Francisco!

Manager Mason Bowling welcomes everyone to Ginger's Trois – the only gay bar in San Francisco's Financial District – and the place is decked out for the holidays. Owner Don Rogers opened the third incarnation of Ginger's (hence the "Trois") in 1991 at 246 Kearny Street, at Sutter. "There's a great 5 o'clock crowd with an elegant, ever-changing ambiance," Bowling said. Customers seem to agree. "There are cheerful, upbeat people here," commented Debra Kanaby, from Sacramento, who stopped by with a friend for a holiday drink one recent afternoon. The bar is open seven days a week.

## Local blackface performance sparks anger

by Zak Szymanski

An incident at the popular drag show Trannyshack last week had some angry community members claiming racism, and others insisting that portraying racial stereotypes can be a fun way to reclaim hurtful images.

On Tuesday, December 16, a performer at Trannyshack appeared on stage in blackface, a historically racist practice that was popular in the minstrel shows of the 1800s where white Americans would imitate black Americans for a white audience. Early blackface is largely held responsible for creating and enforcing the image of "the contented slave," the dancing fool who needs nothing more than watermelon and music to be fulfilled. Blackface, with its exaggerated features, also deformed the body of African Americans, thereby rendering blacks as less than human, their voices only possible through the interpretation of whites.

Last week's Trannyshack – which is held on Tuesday nights at the Stud bar in the South of Market District – angered enough people that the topic was discussed at length on various Internet message boards.

"She came out in blackface: a biological white man in blackface performing for a vastly white, male dominated audience," said one such message posted on Craigslist.org. "Not okay. I ran out. I still have a very haunting image of a white performer in blackface and white men laughing hysterically ... I did not see one performer on stage who did not pass as white."

For the record, according to Trannyshack's emcee Heklina, the performer in question is half black. The night was billed as "Ebonica Hanukkah," said Heklina, and was meant to spoof offensive stereotypes.

"Trannyshack is all about being irreverent. There aren't really any sacred cows at Tran-

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## Health officials say Internet is key in controlling STDs

by Matthew S. Bajko

Health officials trying to combat rising rates of sexually transmitted diseases among men who have sex with men are increasingly turning to the Internet for help.

From haranguing Web site owners into providing safe sex information to tracking down sexual partners of men who test positive for syphilis via e-mail, health officials are employing various online tools as regular means of prevention efforts.

It is an approach officials with San Francisco's Department of Public Health and at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are pushing other health departments across the country to implement. A new report, published in the CDC's December 19 *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, details how the Internet is becoming the number one venue for gay men to meet other men for sex, and why health officials need to join this cyber world.

According to the report, the number of gay or bisexual men in San Francisco who reported meeting sexual partners through the Internet jumped from 12.2 percent in 2000 to 37.4 percent in 2002, an increase of more than 200 percent. The men interviewed reported that they now meet nearly one-third of their sexual partners online, more than through

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## Moves to repeal DP law stumble

by Matthew S. Bajko

Two antigay lawmakers received their Christmas gifts early this year. Lumps of coal.

State Senator Pete Knight's (R-Palmdale) and Assemblyman Ray Haynes's (R-Riverside) efforts to repeal AB205, the sweeping domestic partners bill Governor Gray Davis signed into law just weeks before being recalled from office, received two setbacks over the last seven days.

First, a Sacramento Superior Court judge refused the lawmakers' request for a preliminary injunction against the law, which would have prevented the state from putting the law into effect. Judge Thomas M. Cecil ruled December 18 that the lawmakers, along with the conservative group Campaign for California

Families, had not shown that it was "reasonably probable" that their challenge to AB205 would succeed.

Then on Monday, December 22 gay rights groups and lawmakers celebrated on the steps of the state Capitol the demise of a referendum the conservative lawmakers had wanted to put on the November 2004 ballot. Antigay groups failed to meet the deadline to turn in the needed signatures to qualify their referendum, which would have asked voters to repeal AB205.

After missing the deadline for the March 2004 ballot earlier this month, the conservative lawmakers said they were turning their attention to the lawsuit. Knight and Randy Thomasson, the executive director of CCF, have argued that AB205 violates Proposition 22, a referendum voters passed in 2000 that

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Governor Gray Davis acknowledges the cheers from the LGBT community at the signing of AB205 on September 19 at the LGBT Community Center. At left is Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles), the lead author of the bill. Behind Davis is Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood).

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# Nonprofits host holiday dinners

by Zak Szymanski

**H**olidays can be lonely, over-stimulating, or stressful for many folks, but luckily San Francisco has a variety of offerings for people looking to build community.

The 16th annual sit-down dinner of the AIDS Emergency

Fund will take place on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24. The event is for people with HIV/AIDS and their friends and families and is held at the War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, in three separate seatings at noon, 1:30 p.m., and 3 p.m.

More than 1,200 guests are expected to attend the event, which features a turkey dinner with all

the trimmings; and entertainment provided by the cast of *Beach Blanket Babylon*, The Carpenters, Ted Fox, Sheba, the Johnson Quartet, and John McCollough.

The dinner is made possible by over 200 volunteers, and corporate and foundation gifts from Steve Silver's Beach Blanket Babylon, The Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, Academy of Friends, and Eli and Mae Rosen Foundation. For the 16th year in a row, Liz Baldwin of Bon Appetit Management Company has donated 80 cooked turkeys. This year's menu also includes mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce, stuffing, assorted vegetables, baked yams, fresh bread and butter, assorted cookies and cakes, and fresh fruit.

To attend the AEF holiday gathering, pick up an invitation, available from any of the major AIDS organizations in the city. One invitation entitles a person with HIV/AIDS to attend and bring one guest.

**Tenderloin Tessie's Annual Holiday Dinners** takes place

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, at the First Unitarian Church at Franklin and Geary streets.

Volunteers are needed for shifts including kitchen and set-up (December 24, 4-7 p.m.); din-



RICK GERMAN

People line up for food at last year's AEF Christmas Eve dinner.

ing room (December 25, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.); and clean-up (December 25, 4-6 p.m.).

All members of the community are also welcome to attend dinner; everyone will receive a meal and a holiday gift. For more information, call (415) 922-0242.

**Glide Memorial United Methodist Church** is offering meals on Christmas Day from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Donations of money and food are especially welcome and needed; checks can be sent to Glide at 330 Ellis Street, San Francisco, 94102; and donations can be dropped off at the side entrance.

"This year has again been a difficult year," said Glide Executive

Director Janice Mirikitani said. "It is time for us to open our hearts and give hope to those in need."

Call (415) 674-6000 or visit [www.glidememorial.org](http://www.glidememorial.org) for more information.

**St. Anthony's Foundation** hosts its regular Christmas meal on December 25 at 45 Jones Street from 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. The first hour of the meal is specifically set aside for seniors, the disabled, and families. From 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., everyone is welcome. For more information, call (415) 241-2600.

And the **Haight-Ashbury Food Program** serves Christmas dinner on December 25 from noon until 3 p.m. at 1525 Waller Street. Organizers say the event is "enjoyed by all who participate, whether eating, serving, or both," and volunteers are asked to reserve a slot by calling (415) 566-0366 or visiting [www.thefoodprogram.org](http://www.thefoodprogram.org). ▼

## Correction

Two photos in the December 18 Bay Area Reporter tribute to publisher Bob Ross were inadvertently not credited. The photo on page 9 of Mr. Ross and Wayne Friday, and the photo on page 13 of Emperor Bob Ross and Empress Ginger should have been credited to Rink Foto.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Parties planned for New Year's Eve

by Matthew S. Bajko

From casual dining to outrageous parties, queer San Franciscans have a smorgasbord of options to ring in 2004.

Couples looking for an intimate setting to celebrate will find many Castro restaurants are planning special dinners for the evening. Samovar Tea Lounge, which bills itself as the city's first international tea lounge, is throwing a special New Year's Eve Tea Party. Featuring five courses of food paired with five flights of teas, the tea lounge is hoping the party will be an appealing alternative to more traditional, frenetic, and alcohol-soaked celebrations.

"Too often, people equate drunken partying with having a good time," said Jesse Jacobs, one of the owners of Samovar Tea Lounge. "At Samovar, we're offering something truly different – a chance to spend mindful time with friends old and new, enjoy delicious food and teas, and remember it the next day and beyond."

The evening will begin at 10 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31. Guests will dine on caviar tea toasts, wild mushroom tarts, tofu vegetable curry, and Russian blini with a chocolate-maple glaze. Featured teas will include Black Peony Rosette, Silver Needle Bencha Puerh, Traditional Masala

Chai, Kukicha Supreme Green Tea, and Samovar Russian Black Tea.

Ticket prices are \$48 per person and available by calling (415) 626-4700 or e-mailing info@SamovarTea.com. The tea lounge is located at the corner of 18th and Sanchez streets.

At the other end of the spectrum, the spirits will be flowing at several parties planned to bring in the new year.

Gus Bean is readying for a special New Year's Eve Metropolis at his 550 Barneveld, which will feature a live show by The Gay Pimp, Jonny McGovern. McGovern turned his "soccer practice" song into a steamy, racy video where the gay pimp turns an Abercrombie boy gay. He has turned up on Ricki Lake's talk show and MTV2 this year.

Now he is bringing his satirical mix of character comedy and dirty gay hits that became staples of the New York club scene to San Francisco.

Along with the special performance, DJs Kimberly S and Neil Lewis will spin from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. Tickets cost \$40 advance, \$50 at the door and can be bought at Gold's Gym in the Castro, Body, Always Tan and Trim, or Body Body Wear.

After the success of his "Forgotten Opera" party earlier this year, Ggreg Taylor is hosting "A Royal New Year's Eve" with help



Ggreg Taylor

this time from Juanita More and Tafner, a friend of Taylor's from the Burning Man dance camp Sol System.

This time out attendees are asked to wear all things regal, risqué, kinky, and courtly. Tafner is bringing with him San Francisco DJs Dragn'fly (Ephiphany), Laird (Boombbox), Lewis (Sugar), RonE (Vibrant), Tamo (Garage Mahal), as well as himself. More will be producing her party Booty Call on the second dance floor with Ken Vulson and Derek B.

Taylor has also lined up a trapeze artist, hoop artists, and belly dancers to perform along with Pepperspray, who'll be

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# 2003 was mixed bag for two gay prisoners

by Ed Walsh

**F**or the past 17 years, Mark Smith's only Christmas wish was that the holiday would soon be over.

Last Christmas seemed even more bleak than usual. As an inmate at the California Men's Colony prison in San Luis Obispo, the one perk for prisoners — a bag of candy — was eliminated because of budget cuts.



Mark Smith with his mom, Dolores Padilla.

Smith insisted his family not visit him on Christmas. He didn't want to be reminded that he was in prison on that day and he didn't want his family to spend Christmas there either.

Smith, 47, suffers from AIDS, cancer, heart disease, and Parkinson's disease. He's in the midst of a new health scare, a spot on one of his lungs that could be a recurrence of cancer.

Despite the health challenges, this year may be the best ever for Smith and his family. Smith walked out of prison on parole on September 25 for the first time in more than 17 years.

Smith plans to spend Christmas this year with family and friends. Freedom has given him a new appreciation for simple things in life that he once took for granted. Simple things like a padded chair or a home cooked meal seem like a luxury now.

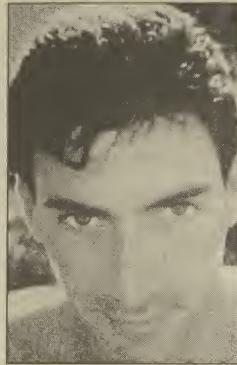
"When I first saw the ocean, I

was overwhelmed," Smith told the Bay Area Reporter last week.

A passing visit to some of his old haunts in West Hollywood was also a bittersweet reminder of his life in the 1980s cocaine-fueled fast lane that eventually led to his arrest for homicide. Smith was convicted of second-degree murder for being an accomplice in the 1985 killing of a reputed drug dealer in a dispute over watered-down cocaine. Smith maintained that he played no part in the crime and was regretful that he was unable to prevent the murder.

Kevin Leigh was also convicted of second-degree murder for his involvement in the crime. In an exclusive interview with the B.A.R. earlier this year, Leigh confessed that he, not Smith, murdered the victim, but Leigh said that Smith was involved in the fight that led to the crime.

Smith had battled former Governor Gray Davis for parole in the courts for three years. He is the only prisoner who was released despite an order from Davis blocking parole. Davis once vowed to block the parole of all



Robert Rosenkrantz

court judges and two appeals court panels independently ruled that Rosenkrantz had been illegally denied parole but Davis appealed those rulings. The former governor finally won when the California Supreme Court ruled in his favor last year. Rosenkrantz's appeal to the federal courts is pending.

**"When I first saw the ocean, I was overwhelmed," Smith told the Bay Area Reporter last week.**

convicted killers. In his five years in office, he only allowed parole for eight of the 294 inmates whose release was approved by the Board of Prison Terms, which only recommends parole for about 1 percent of eligible prisoners. Davis granted most of the eight releases after he was re-elected a year ago.

"Gray Davis and I are both finally out — I'm out of prison and he is out of the governor's office — both in time for Christmas," Smith told the B.A.R.

#### Rosenkrantz case

Smith's case parallels that of another gay prisoner, Robert Rosenkrantz, who was convicted of second-degree murder for an unrelated homicide in Los Angeles County in 1985. Rosenkrantz shot and killed a former schoolmate who physically attacked him on the night of his high school graduation and later ousted him to his father.

Rosenkrantz has also battled Davis for parole. Two superior

Rosenkrantz's case may soon be in the hands of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. His next parole hearing is scheduled for January 5. Rosenkrantz's lawyer, well-known San Francisco appellate attorney Dennis Riordan, told the B.A.R. that the parole board is still under court order to find Rosenkrantz suitable for parole and to set a parole date. Assuming it follows that order, Schwarzenegger will have to decide whether to block his parole. If he simply does nothing, Rosenkrantz will be freed.

Parole advocates' initial optimism over Schwarzenegger's stance on parole is fading. Shortly after taking office last month, he approved the parole of two of the three cases that crossed his desk. But his record since then swayed the average in the other direction. Of the 12 cases he's had to consider, Schwarzenegger has allowed only five to be paroled. He blocked parole for six and sent one case back to the Board of Prison Terms for review. ▼

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## YEAR IN REVIEW



San Francisco's LGBT Community Center has endured a tough year.

# Community center back on track after a tumultuous year

by Matthew S. Bajko

Six months after being named executive director of the LGBT Community Center, Thom Lynch has turned a failing operation into a juggernaut within the city's gay community and a must-stop locale for the Democratic presidential contenders and other politicians.

News media from around the world seek him out for comment on stories about gay rights. Confident in Lynch's leadership of the center, corporations and foundations have begun to financially support the building.

He has welcomed into the 40,000 square foot building a gay business group, a program for homeless queer youth, and an economic incubator for the gay community. He also announced that a gay couple had been picked to operate the long vacant cafe space in the center. The cafe, to be called the Three Dollar Bill Cafe, is set to open next March.

He is in talks with five LGBT nonprofit groups he wants to move into the building beginning in February and is looking to overhaul how the center rents its meeting space to groups.

And he is holding his breath that the community has noticed.



Thom Lynch is receiving plaudits for working to turn the center around.

The first test to gauge community sentiment about the turnaround in the center's fortunes will come in January, when renewal notices go out to center members.

"We have no idea what that is going to look like," said Lynch. "I hope the response will be people will be happy with the direction we are going and will step up and renew their memberships."

In a release on the center's top milestones of 2003, Lynch challenges individuals in the community to continue to support the

center. Financial support from the community is the one piece missing from what has otherwise been an amazingly successful change in leadership at the center.

Both Lynch and Scott Wiener, co-chair of the center's board of directors, acknowledge that donations from individuals remain lackluster and increasing the level of giving from the community will be a top priority in 2004.

"In terms of getting people to support the center financially, we need to make the case to the community why they should do that," said Wiener. "I think we are doing that. In the last six months Thom Lynch has done a phenomenal job making the community understand the relevance of the center, the relevance of the programs we are sponsoring now and doing in the future. People are already supporting the center more than they were a year ago."

#### Economic meltdown

Last winter the board was slowly beginning to realize that the center was facing an economic meltdown. Their contractor had placed a mechanic's lien on the building due to unpaid bills and the center was spending more money than it was taking in. After less than a year on the job, then-

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Volume 33, Number 52  
25 December 2003

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## A matter of balance

**A**s we rushed to get this issue to bed because of early holiday deadlines, a story in Sunday's *New York Times* leapt out at us, and, as we read it, increasingly we became more frustrated and angry. The December 21 story, prominently featured on page 1 above the fold, was headlined "Strong Support Is Found For Ban On Gay Marriage." While it's not news to us that proponents of gay marriage have a steep hill to climb, Sunday's story reporting on a *Times/CBS* News poll that shows the majority of Americans favor a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage was numbing—mostly for the way in which it was reported.

The *Times* is the country's top newspaper and, despite its own share of newsroom troubles this past year, generally covers stories in depth. The *Times* regularly has run stories on gay marriage issues, particularly since June's Supreme Court decision striking down sodomy laws and last month's Massachusetts decision giving same-sex couples the right to marry. In between those two major developments, social conservatives and the religious right have put new energy into the Federal Marriage Amendment, which would amend the U.S. Constitution to exclude same-sex marriage. Never mind that we already have the Defense of Marriage Act, the homophobes who have signed on as co-sponsors of the FMA want it to be part of the very fabric that forms our government.

The major flaw with the *Times*' story Sunday was that it lacked balance. Of the 1,057 people surveyed in telephone interviews between December 10-13 for the poll, in follow-up interviews the newspaper could find only one person to quote who supports same-sex marriage, and his comment came at the very end of the story. In newsroom jargon, it was buried. Meanwhile, those surveyed who support the amendment were quoted more prominently in the story, and their antigay bias virtually went unanswered by gay rights advocates.

Why didn't the reporters contact one of the couples involved in the Massachusetts decision or the lawyers who argued on their behalf? Why wasn't a representative from one of several marriage equality groups contacted? The story mentioned California's AB205, which goes into effect in 2005, and the fact that it is under threat of a legal challenge. Yet the story neglected to mention that antigay lawmakers failed in their effort to get a referendum on the California ballot to repeal the law. Surely that demonstrates there are problems with antimar-

riage proponents too.

The article's lead writer was Katharine Q. Seelye, one the *Times'* top correspondents in Washington, D.C., however, the only representation the community got was in the form of a single quote from Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign. She mentioned that it would be a "very bad idea" to amend the Constitution for social issues.

We expect more from the *Times*. This is a newspaper that just last week ran a great feature story on two gay men, Gustavo Archilla, 88, and Elmer Lokkins, 84, who crossed the Canadian border near Niagara Falls and were married after living together for six decades.

"The couple capture what some in the gay rights movement say is an essential but unappreciated point in the argument for same-sex marriage: it offers something more basic and profound than survivor benefits or shared health care," reporter Andrea Elliott wrote in the December 16 story. "For many gays and lesbians, the power of marriage lies in the sanctity of its tradition, its social legitimacy—the very thing opponents of gay marriage are mobilizing at the highest levels to protect."

"For Mr. Archilla and Mr. Lokkins, the need for an official blessing was so basic

that until they married, they could not make their relationship public. It was only on the evening of November 12, after they wed, that they embraced in front of others for the first time."

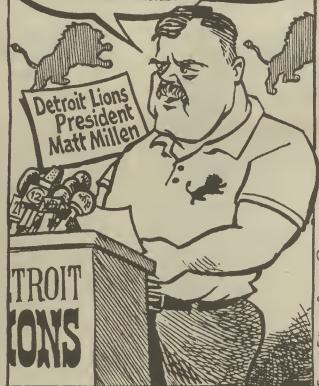
That's a pretty succinct summary of the battle over same-sex marriage now roiling the country. And we know that more education is needed, and that LGBT people need to continue to come out to others. That was one point mentioned in the Sunday story on the poll—that the most positive feelings toward gay people were registered among respondents under 30, and among those who knew gay people.

Unfortunately, the *Times'* Sunday story made us feel that a step backward had taken place, that we were relegated to the back of the bus, so to speak, and that our voices weren't heard. One of the huge problems with most of the reporting of gay marriage by the mainstream media is that there is a near lack of examination of the views expressed by those opposed to same-sex marriage: from what does marriage need to be protected? What is it about gay marriage that straight finds so threatening?

We'll be sending a copy of this editorial to Daniel Okrent, the new public editor of the *Times*, and we hope he decides to address this issue in an upcoming column. If he does, we'll let you know. ▼

## Editorial

**IF I OFFENDED ANYONE BY CALLING FORMER LIONS RECEIVER JOHNNIE MORTON A FAGGOT, I APOLOGIZE.**



human and worked until that companionship was satisfactory. The creation story doesn't mention reproduction until much later when the first couple left the Garden of Eden.

Now, I'm not a biologist, but I know that God has other options regarding reproduction. Asexual reproduction can be found in nature. This is reproduction where no partner is needed. It is more common than we may realize. For example, whiptail lizards reproduce without a partner. Their bodies divide in half. One half grows a new head and the other half grows a new tail. Thus one becomes two.

Since other possible options exist regarding reproduction; the Creator must have had other things in mind when humanity was created with sexuality. I'm convinced that's because God wants us to have fun. Christians who think pleasure is a bad thing are simply fooling themselves. Pleasure is a very good thing. The Apostle Paul wrote to young Timothy, "For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving" (I Timothy 4:4).

Thank God for the gift of sex.

Sex is not only a gift from God, however. It is a gift from the partner who is sharing

him or herself with us. Sex is best when we receive it as a free gift from a partner who wants to contribute pleasure to our lives while we at the same time give ourselves to the other in a way that is a gift of pleasure to our partner. There is nothing that prevents us from pleasuring ourselves, but when we give ourselves to one another for mutual pleasure, sex is a genuine gift of the highest caliber. Vulnerability, intimacy, and downright fun combine as an offering of both parties to the fulfillment of the other. That's why Paul wrote that our bodies do not belong just to us, but also to our partner (I Corinthians 7:4).

There was a time in my life when, if I could, I would have preferred to be heterosexual. Needless to say that was because of the social pressures and stigma that were attached to being gay. Now that I have found some maturity and a genuinely loving partner, I could not be paid enough to even want to be hetero. God makes us diverse and unique creatures. The Creator gives us many wonderful gifts, including the gift of two homosexual lovers sacrificially giving themselves for mutual pleasure and love. Maybe if more heterosexual Christians found what the gift of sex

## Guest Opinion

## The gift of sex

by Robert Buchanan

I believe that one of the greatest gifts is the gift of sex. I think sex makes a unique and special contribution to our lives. Part of the reason I think sex is a special gift is because of who the gift comes from. First of all, God has given humanity the gift of sex. The Creator made us to physically bring pleasure to one another.

There have been times when some in the Church have missed this point and thought that sex was evil, or at best simply a way of reproduction. They missed the point. The creation stories of scripture indicate that God was far more interested in companionship and pleasure than the ability to reproduce. God sought a companion for the first

page 10 ►

## LETTERS

**Remembering Bob Ross**

Congratulations on the bang-up job with the B.A.R.'s commemoration of Bob Ross's life [December 18 issue]. In the end, he will be remembered for his vision, his courage, his generosity, his willingness to take a chance on individuals – all of which shaped our community and made life infinitely better for millions of people in America, most of whom he did not know and most of whom did not know who he was. No doubt Bob would have been uncomfortable with the plaudits – gay men of his generation (and subsequent ones as well) often have a hard time with praise. But we think he would have been pleased that his tireless work on behalf of our community was recognized and appreciated. Few people have such a legacy.

Robert W. Melbourne  
Gustavo Serina  
San Francisco

**A blast from the past**

In 1975 I was a young Teamster official directing the boycott of Coors beer. Harvey Milk had me meet with Bob at his office on Howard Street. Bob said, "What can I do to help you?" I wanted to place ads in the B.A.R. to inform the gay community about Coors. Bob said, "Who is going to pay – you or the Teamsters union?" I told him I was doing this on my own. "In that case," Bob said, "give me \$5."

Bob and the B.A.R. helped a lot. I shall never forget Bob's kindness.

Allan Baird  
San Francisco



**Mailstrom**

**'Gentle giant' has gone to sleep**

A gentle giant has gone to sleep. There will never be another Bob Ross, who was, to me, for many, many years a true friend. Many of my colleague's lives and careers have warm and historic memories.

Marvin-Michel LeGrier II, Esq.  
San Francisco

**Appreciates column**

Dear Mr. Marcus: I was deeply saddened and moved by your recent loss of your friend and mentor Bob Ross [“Tribute to a mentor,” Leather, December 18]. My condolences. It was a stirring remembrance in your column and it reminded me how important it is to inform the next generation of how the world of the gay community looked in the “early days.” So much we have now is taken for granted and much work and true activism took place before we all got to where we are today. How lucky you are to have been such a part of the real beginnings of the gay and lesbian movement in North American history.

Being “out” as a gay man since 1977, I am fortunate to have witnessed (and hopefully been an active part) of change in Toronto. But you were truly at the center of the movement.

Bob Ross has left an indelible mark on gay history and in the many lives he touched. So many pioneers have passed but they are never forgotten when we continue to pay tribute to their life. Thank you for your words.

John Bassett  
Board Member/Media Relations  
Mr. Leatherman Toronto Competition Inc.

**Gay senior housing needed**

I'm writing to thank B.A.R. for the wonderful article in the December 11 issue acknowledging Openhouse [“Many changes for LGBT senior residence projects”].

For the past two years I have been volunteering for this great group of dedicated people, working to make mixed income LGBT senior housing a reality in San Francisco. At a time when so many services are being cut that the city's ability to care for its own citizens is in dire question, nonprofit organizations like Openhouse hold the light of hope for the future.

Jennifer Ware  
San Francisco

**Migden and Gonzalez**

Boo hoo! Wayne Friday whines that Board of Equalization member Carole Migden was seen walking with then-mayoral candidate Supervisor Matt Gonzalez at the memorial march for George Moscone and Harvey Milk [“Newsom keeps S.F. in Democratic hands,” December 18]. Friday suggests this action somehow indicates that Migden, who did not endorse a candidate for mayor, perhaps leaned toward Gonzalez's candidacy.

Perhaps Migden would have walked with Gavin Newsom too, had he deigned to attend the march.

Alan Collins  
San Francisco

**Side effects of drug**

This is regarding the Reyataz ads that appeared in the November 27 and December 4 issues. I wanted to share with you and your readers the side effects I had

while on a combination using Reyataz.

Blood dripping out of my right nostril, severe pain in my stomach/diaphragm area, below normal temperatures, tightening of muscles causing severe pain and the inability to walk and grasp normally, weight loss, hair loss on head and thighs, lowered thyroid levels, increased (over 3 times the normal range) triglycerides levels, platelets dropped considerably, twitching of my nerves, night sweats, taste buds off, mental and emotional state thrown off balance, veins in temple areas became more prominent, and soreness in lower back area.

Because of these serious side effects, I would like to see the B.A.R. refuse these ads from Bristol-Myers Squibb until they can prove that these side effects are not related to their new medication, Reyataz.

I would also like to make contact with others who have had similar problems with this medication to interview for my local cable access show, *The Steven Keller Show*. I can be e-mailed at lelion\_sf@yahoo.com.

It's time to stand up against the pharmaceutical companies, and to stop accepting the mantra from our doctors that these medications are “better than not taking anything.” When, in fact, they are destroying our lives and our bodies.

Steven D. Keller  
San Francisco

**I remember Monty**

A few weeks ago you ran an article on the life and career of Montgomery Clift [“Tortured star,” November 27]. It brought back some very pleasant memories for me. I met Monty in the early months of 1940 in New York. I was 21 years old and Monty was only 19 but he had already appeared on the Broadway stage.

We met in the Gotham Book Mart on 51st Street. The proprietor, Frances Steloff, was an old friend of mine, and she had been telling me about this remarkable young man, Montgomery Clift (one of her customers) and how talented he was and how handsome. “You two boys ought to get together,” she said. Well, one day we did just that. We both happened to be in the Gotham at the same time and Frances introduced us.

Perhaps it sounds a bit ridiculous if I say it was love at first sight, but the truth is that it was certainly “like” at first sight – and it was a mutual “like” because we spent the next four weeks together, constantly in each other's company.

Monty was very unique: he was kind, he was intelligent, he was endlessly interested in everything around him, but most striking to me was the intensity of his probing mind. He had this faculty of looking at you and making you think that you were the only person on earth. For the moment, perhaps you were. It was very flattering, but I soon learned that so far as Monty was concerned, it was real. He deeply observed every incident that came to his attention and analyzed it – taking it apart to see if there was anything in it that he could use in his art.

For example, at the time, I was a student at the Hanya Holm Dance Studio. Monty wanted to know everything I could tell him about dance. I introduced him to Hanya and to some other dancers that I knew (Martha Graham and Agnes deMille) and he absorbed every minute, every word, every gesture. It was just the way he was: intensely observing and always consuming experience. It was as if he wanted to keep every moment of his life in some kind of akashic treasure chest so he could use it later when the occasion might arise. Well, for him, many occasions did arise.

Monty was particularly fascinated by Hanya's teaching of the von Laban Dance Notation system. He thought it might be something that an actor could use. At the time, Hanya was the only dancer who used a choreographer to record her dances. Years later Hanya was the first dancer in the United States to get a copyright on her choreography; she got it for her dances in *Kiss Me Kate*. I have often wondered if Monty knew about that; I'm sure it is the kind of thing that would fascinate him.

Well, as I said, I spent about four happy weeks seeing Monty every day. We went to concerts, museums, studios, or just hung out in the park or on Riverside Drive. We talked late into the night. Then, Monty was selected for a role in the play *There Shall Be No Night* and the stars, Lynn Fontaine and Alfred Hunt, took Monty up to their home in New England for intensive rehearsals. I never saw him again.

Stephen E. Kellogg  
San Francisco

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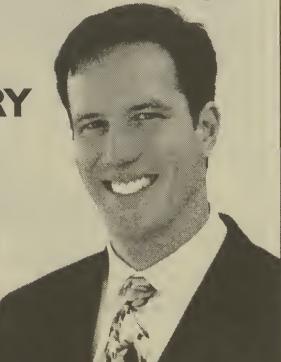


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**The best of 2003's worst**

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

**T**he holiday season is, for many, a time of giving. Rather than giving out all the good gifts currently sitting under a tree in the other room, I'd like to hand out something a little different. I'd like to take a moment and recognize those of a more dubious nature. It's a little honor I like to call a "lumpy," after the mythical lump of coal given to the naughty by a certain jolly old elf in some seasonal beliefs.

In doing so, I realize that there are just so many possible recipients. The media alone could earn enough coal to power most of the Bay Area.

Topping my list would be the made-and-immediately-shelved reality TV program, *There's Something About Miriam*, in which six men vied to the win affection of a woman — only to have her revealed as a preoperative transsexual in the final episode. It's yet another example of the type of reality program that *Joe Millionaire* ushered in, and one that shows just how low the genre can really stoop.

Speaking of bending low, I'd also have to give one to the ad company who came up with an advertisement selling DiGiorno's pizza. In this stellar example of the adman's craft, the "transgender woman" depicted is shown with something akin to a 7 o'clock shadow, chest hair that resembles a shag carpet, and a coarse, bass voice. In it, "she" speaks of having to be honest about something with her male suitor — the pizza isn't delivery. Haw, haw. Enjoy your coal.

Of course, I have to also look at the news media. Topping my own personal list — and edging out the one reporter who asked by what gender I wanted to be identified — is the *Los Angeles Times*. It seems that the *Times*, regardless of the Associated Press, much of the rest of the news media, the mother of the deceased, and continued pressure from LGBT activists, continues to identify transgender teenager and murder victim Gwen Araujo by her birth name and pronoun.

Speaking of Araujo, I would give a "lumpy" to the judge who

let one of her alleged killers out on bail, but he was more than willing to rescind it after the conclusion of the preliminary trial in March of this year. A similar issue came up in Washington, D.C., with the alleged killer of another young transgender woman who was released on bail, only to have it rescinded.

Rather than criticizing those judges, I'll have to "award" the Philadelphia Police Department for its continued foot dragging on yet another death. Nizah Morris died in December 2002, and was discovered bleeding to death just minutes after a police "courtesy ride." I cannot help but wonder if this is why the police initially refused the coroner's

stance that it was homicide, and have done little to find a killer in the last 12 months.

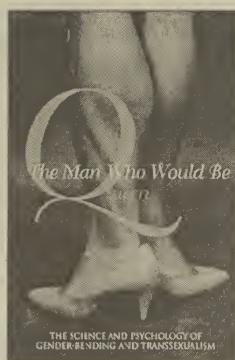
Fresh on the list has got to be the Washington, D.C. Fire Department, which is currently being sued by a lesbian diversity trainer. It seems that a number of firefighters and EMS workers have been making hostile and insulting remarks about said trainer, and some officials allegedly went so far as to debate which bathroom the trainer should use.

The program of which the trainer was a part? No less than the human diversity training series named after Tyra Hunter, a transgender woman whose death was blamed partially on poor care and insensitivity on the part of the DCFD. Indeed, a diversity program specifically about gay and transgender issues.

I don't even want to look at politics, because while coal is cheap, especially in bulk, the postage would just kill me. I would love to send something to those who still don't seem ready to support fully transgender-inclusive versions of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act or Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act.

The biggest "lumpy" I've saved for last, and it's for "junk science" author J. Michael Bailey. He picked 2003 to release his book *The Man Who Would Be Queen: The Science of Gender-Bending and Transsexualism*.

The text was little more than throwback, citing the flawed research of Dr. Ray Blanchard, as well



as the "work" done by Bailey to create his own views of both effeminate gay men and transsexuals at large. The short version is this: male to female transsexuals are either men with a severe version of homosexuality, or men with a fetish for feminizing themselves. If one doesn't fit the above, then they are either lying or in denial.

It would be laughable if he wasn't selling this as science, and if the book wasn't released by a reputable publisher. It becomes frightening when one sees how quickly some of the religious right have latched onto this text as proof of our own deviance.

Of course, they ignore the fact that Bailey is being investigated by the college at which he wrote his text: it seems that he may have done his "research" in exchange for favors, and without making it clear that this was indeed "research." Indeed, much of his time seems to have been spent in the bars around Chicago, talking with a handful or so of the women there while ignoring most others. Yes, I shouldn't even need to add that he's also accused of sleeping with at least one of his so-called subjects.

For that, he deserves this Pyrrhic victory. J. Michael Bailey, the worst of the worst of 2003, enjoy your "lumpy" along with the rest. You may need it.

I only hope that 2004 finds a lot less people out there trying to earn their place on my own, personal naughty list. ▼

Gwen Smith would much rather hand out diamonds than coal. You can find her on the Web at [www.gwensmith.com](http://www.gwensmith.com).

**Holiday fun for the kids**

**S**nowflake the Elf makes balloon hats for, from left, Michael, Aubrey, and Lilly as Eddy waits his turn at the Our Family Coalition's holiday party earlier this month in San Francisco. OFC is an organization for LGBT parents and their families, and hosts several fun-filled events throughout the year.

Jane Philomen Cleland

## POLITICS

# Gov's power play annoys legislative leaders

by Wayne Friday

**W**hen Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared the state of California a fiscal disaster last week and imposed a martial law of sorts, he broke with legislative leaders of both political parties and invoked one-time emergency powers to make \$150 million in cuts – largely in social service programs – without the approval of state lawmakers.

By invoking the emergency budget powers that the Legislature had previously given to **Gray Davis**, Schwarzenegger threw a temporary lifeline to local governments, which are facing devastating cuts to public safety and other essential services. But the move doesn't for a minute solve the state's huge budget crisis, and his decision to go around the Legislature does little other than to move the pain around.

Blaming the "Democratic leadership" of the Legislature, Schwarzenegger said, "I was elected by the people of this state to lead; since the legislative leadership [read: Democrats] refuses to act, I will act without them." While Schwarzenegger's surprise move last week was short-term good news for cities and counties, it was truly a temporary solution and the act did little for Schwarzenegger's shaky relationship with lawmakers.

Some Democratic legislators in particular are actually openly questioning the legality of the governor's move, but Democratic state Controller **Steve Westly** – who will be the one to cut the checks to local officials – said he supports the idea and believes it is, in fact, legal. Senate President Pro tem **John Burton** (D-San Francisco) said this week that although he has attorneys actually reviewing Schwarzenegger's unorthodox move of declaring a de-facto "budgetary martial law," even he doesn't anticipate any legal action. "The way this was handled by the governor didn't help one bit; if a Democratic governor had tried to do this, the Republicans up here would be screaming off the charts," Burton snarked.

To make up for money cities and counties lost when he cut the vehicle license fee immediately upon taking office, the governor raided funds for state universities, farmworkers, and – ironically – even the Department of Motor Vehicles. Local governments have lost more than \$300 million since Schwarzenegger made good on his promise to cut the car tax and will have to absorb any further cuts to health care and social services. Repealing the car tax was the Republican governor's first official act upon taking office, but the actor-turned-governor has yet to replace the billions of dollars the tax would have generated for local government services, particularly police and fire services.

Schwarzenegger is quickly learning that governing is a lot more difficult than campaigning. Schwarzenegger's proposal to

take a \$15 billion bond measure to the voters looks – for the moment – like a political victory for the new governor, but it quickly prompted Wall Street to lower the state's bond rating, which will now cost millions more in additional interest. The new governor's plan to cut \$274 million in services to the disabled sparked such a public protest that he quickly backed away from it; that money now will have to come from someplace else but who knows where?

Local governmental bodies such as the San Francisco Board of Supervisors might not want to think about it, but Schwarzenegger's plans to cut more than \$150 million in spending by the time the emergency budgeting powers he imposed expires on June 30, the end of the fiscal year, means there are some very tough and painful choices to be made by local governments.

Maybe Schwarzenegger really does have the answers – he's the one who ran up and down the state during the recall election declaring he "would fix things in Sacramento." Good luck, Mr. Governor.

As for the rest of us – get ready – because whether Schwarzenegger's fellow Republicans like it or not, Californians are soon to be seeing some tax increases; there's no other solution.

## Politics and people

On Monday, January 5, family and friends of outgoing Mayor **Willie Brown** will present the city and county of San Francisco and the San Francisco Arts Commission with a bust of Brown in honor of his many years of dedicated service to this city. The bust, by sculptor **Richard McDonald**, will be unveiled during a reception in City Hall.

Supervisor **Chris Daly's** latest childish outburst during a late-night vote on an appointment to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission has even some of his colleagues wondering if the guy needs some help of the professional kind. How many times must his allies sit back, watch, and make excuses for Daly's tactics. If Daly's political soulmates like **Matt Gonzalez** and **Jake McGoldrick** can't help the guy, then maybe there should be a legal remedy. At the very least, it is the duty of board President Gonzalez – regardless of his personal political alliances and friendship – to do something to reign this troubled guy in; Gonzalez owes it to his colleagues as well as the public. Enough said.

## Happy holidays

This week marks the start of another holiday season. I'd like to wish the best of the coming holidays to so many of those people who get mentioned in this column or who I think of so often during the year. Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah and only good health to: Assemblyman **Mark Leno**; **Dennis Collins**; **Dennis & Anne Herrera**; Mayor **Willie Brown**; **Mick Ridolfi**; District Attorney-elect **Kamala**

**Harris**; Senator **Dianne Feinstein** & **Dick Blum**; **Tom Horn**; Supervisor **Bevan Dufty**; **Joe Caruso**; Supervisor **Tom Ammiano**; **Marge Poscher**; **Chris Bowman**; **Morgan Gorrono** & **Jonathan Chiu**; **Steve Cox**; **Tom Soucie**; **Mike & Beverly Hennessey**; Supervisor **Aaron Peskin**; Public Defender **Jeff Adachi**; **Mike & Denise Kopf**; Mayor-elect **Gavin Newsom** & **Kimberly Guilfoyle Newsom**; **Angela Alioto**; **Carolene Marks**; **Allen White**; Board of Equalization Chair **Carole Migden** & **Cris Arguedas**; **Frederick Hobson**; **Andy Clark**; state Senate leader **John Burton**; **Sue Bierman**; **Bob Golovich**; **Matthew Rothschild**; **Bob Hartnagel**; **Don Rogers** and the gang at Ginger's Trois; **Rebecca Prozan**; **Clint & Janet Reilly**; **Greg Bronstein**; **Dan & Donna Addario**; **Dick Deemer**; **Ken Irvine**; **Bella**; **Cheryl Crane**; **Warren Hinckle**; everyone at Mr. LeeOona's bar on Turk Street; **Phil Matier**; **Andy Ross**; **Ed Emond** & **Gardner Pond**; **Hank Plante**; **Bob Sykes**; **Kay Tsenstein**; **Duke Smith**; **Randy Alfred**; **Art Torres**; **Anna Damiani**; **Arlo Smith** & **Jane Howell**; **Jim Rivaldo**; **Mitch Katz**; **Lillian Sing**; **Richard "Sweetlips" Walters**; the good folks at Marlena's bar on Hayes Street; **Lea Milletto**; **Michael O'Malley**; **Paul & Louise Renne**; **Matt Dorsey**; **Connie Perry**; Supervisor **Sophie Maxwell**; **Angelo Quaranta** & **Pamela Berman**; Supervisor **Fiona Ma**; **Chuck Limbert**; **Mike Housh**; **Rachel Gordon**; **Jeff Brown**; **Mindy Pengel**; **Ron Huberman**; **Robert Ortega**; **Kenny Allison** & **Duffy**; **David Binder**; **Steven Underhill**; **Eileen Hirst**; **Jim Molinari**; **Chuck Haines** & **Duncan**; **Danny Nicoletta**; **Robert Pritikin**; **Ron Ross**; **Jeff Sheehy**; **Mabel Teng**; **Donna Sachet**; **Hank Wilson**; **Theresa Sparks**; **Lawrence Wong**; **Ted Fang**; **Greta Grass**; **Jack Davis** & **Donald Canady**; **Nancy & Paul Pelosi**; **Frank Jordan** & **Wendy Paskin**; **Cleve Jones**; **Paul Pelosi Jr.**; **John Laird**; **Sharon McNight**; **Joe, DeeDee** & the gang at Aunt Charley's Lounge; **Peter Nardoza**; **Rink**; **Scott Shafer**; **Dave Tussey**; **Jeff George**, and everyone at the Twin Peaks bar; **Bryan James**; **Doris Ward**; **John Heilmann**; **Anne Kronenberg**; **Jeff Getty**; **Bill Brown**; **Larry Bush**; **Dick Hongisto**; **Greg Flores** & **Michael Guina**; **Jose Cisneros** & **Mark Gelleher**; **John Newmeyer**; **Jim Hormel** & **Tim Wu**; **Brian Boitano**; **Ellen Chatin** & **V. Roy Lefcourt**; **Cecil Williams** & **Janice Mirikitani**; **Assemblyman Leland Yee**; **Ed Petrillo** & **Eric Johnson**; **Phil Bronstein**; **Kevin McCarthy** & **David Shaw**; **Hansler**; **Annemarie Conroy** & **Bart**; **Teri** and the gang at the Transfer; **Barbara & Stu Boxer**; **Ron Albers**; **Rob Cotterman**; **Rick Carlson**; **Chuck Davis**; **John McCullum**; **Rod McKuen**; **Michael Weiss**; **Larry Kramer**; and so many others – particularly, **Cynthia Laird**, **Mike Yamashita**, **David McBrayer**, **Elsa Lee** and the rest of the staff at the *Bay Area Reporter* who so faithfully cover my back – my very best to all of you. ▼

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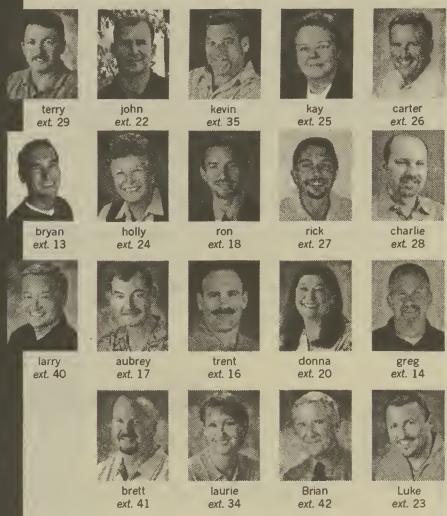
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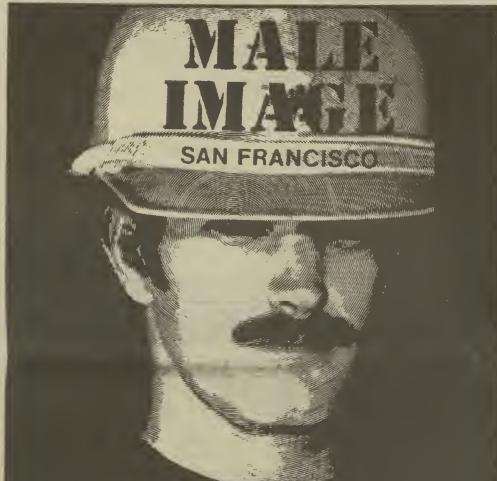
## DEPRESSED?

Depression is a medical condition that may cause feelings of sadness, worthlessness and helplessness, as well as loss of interest or pleasure in activities which were formerly enjoyable. This disorder is often treatable, but unfortunately many of the medications that are used to treat depression can cause sexual dysfunction as well as other side effects. As part of the search for better medications, Dr. Robert Dolgoff and colleagues at Berkeley Therapy Institute are conducting a study of an investigational drug, a marketed product, and placebo in patients suffering from moderate to severe depression. You may qualify for this study if you meet the following criteria:

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- Suffering from depression for at least 12 weeks but not longer than 2 years
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If you fit these and some other criteria, and you decide to enroll, you will receive study related physical and psychiatric examinations, laboratory tests, and study medication at no cost. During the 8 week study you will be seen in our office and you will receive \$35.00 for at least one and possibly as many 8 office visits. If you are interested in learning more about this study, contact us:

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12/02

## On guard

by Jane Warner

**S**afeway, 2020 Market Street, December 19, 9:17 p.m.: A Safeway security officer saw a man he recognized as a past shoplifter enter the store. The guard followed the alleged thief and observed him walk into the cosmetics and beauty section. The guard watched as the man removed several bottles of various kinds of shampoo from the shelf and stuck them down his pants and in several pockets of his large, oversized coat. The suspect then zipped up his jacket and carefully walked out of the cosmetic section so that none of the bottles would fall from his person. The shoplifter strolled past a row of checkout stands, failing to stop and pay for any of the concealed goods, and then exited the store with the security officer close behind.

As the suspect entered the parking lot, the guard stopped him and took him into custody without incident. The suspect, 39, was escorted to the back of the

store where the guard called 911. While waiting for the police to arrive, the security officer removed 13 bottles of shampoo from the suspect's pants and coat. The recovered shampoo had a retail value of more than \$100.

### Stolen ATM card found

18th and Castro streets, December 20, 6:53 a.m.:

While on routine patrol, an officer saw a woman standing on the corner of 18th and Castro streets whom she recognized as a suspected drug user. The officer had recently conducted a search warrant on a house in the Castro where drugs were found and remembered finding a photograph of the woman smoking from a glass methamphetamine pipe. As the officer exited her patrol car, the woman screamed obscenities at her and became combative. Fearful for her safety, the officer at-

tempted to put her in handcuffs, but the suspect began to kick the officer and a struggle ensued. After the brief struggle, the officer was able to "leg sweep" the suspect to the sidewalk and place her in handcuffs. A search of the woman's pockets revealed a four-inch folding knife, three plastic baggies containing a whitish crystal suspected of being methamphetamine, and a stolen ATM card that was listed in someone else's name. The suspect, 21, was taken to Mission Station and booked for possession of narcotics, possession of stolen property, resisting arrest, and an outstanding warrant for \$5,000 for prior narcotics violations. ▼



The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.

## Robbers hit Haight Street pot club during blackout

by Ed Walsh

**P**olice are looking for a group of thieves who allegedly robbed a medical marijuana club during last weekend's massive power outage in San Francisco.

Five men forced their way into the Alternative Herbal Health Services club at 442 Haight Street just after 8 p.m. on Saturday, December 20, witnesses said.

AHHS owner Jason Beck said one of the robbers hit him four or five times on the head with a gun. He went to a hospital on his own and had to get three staples to close the gash on his scalp.

"They were yelling, 'Where's the safe, where's the safe?'" Beck told the Bay Area Reporter.

The robbers were angry that he was unable to open the cash register because of the power outage, Beck said.

The thieves got away with about \$600 cash that Beck had in his pocket and a small amount of marijuana, police said.

The club was particularly vulnerable because its alarm system was disabled by the blackout and was operating on candlelight. Beck said his alarm has a backup battery but it didn't work.

Beck is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspects.

Witnesses were unable to provide police with detailed descriptions of the suspects because four were wearing nylon stocking masks and the fifth had his shirt pulled up over his nose. Beck said

that all the suspects were young black males and all were of average height. All but one was armed with a handgun, he said.

As the men were leaving, Beck said that the man who was not carrying a gun said, "Let's pop one of them, to let them know we're real."

Beck said that although the robbery was terrifying, he was more afraid for the safety of the four workers and one patient who were in the club at the time.

"I know God put me here for a reason, I know God is not going to let anything happen that he doesn't want to let happen," he said.

Beck had high praise for the way the police handled the case. He said he felt it was important for the club to stay open despite the blackout to assist patients in need. ▼

## Blackout causes few troubles for Castro

by Ed Walsh

**T**he Castro got away relatively unscathed from the power outage that left about a third of San Francisco in the dark last weekend but one of its largest businesses, Pottery Barn, was without power through Sunday.

Only a handful of Castro businesses lost power and there were no reports of crimes or other incidents linked to the outage, according to San Francisco Patrol Special Police Officer Jane Warner. The veteran Castro officer noted that the rain Saturday night was undoubtedly a major factor that helped keep things quiet in the neighborhood.

One of the businesses that lost power, Cafe Flore, shut down shortly after the lights went out around 6 p.m. Saturday, December 20, but its power was restored by Sunday morning. A few other businesses and residents in the area were without power all day Sunday.

Several businesses were affect-

ed in the Church and Market vicinity. Safeway remained open due to generators, but Home Restaurant had to close at the busy dinner rush.

The blackout came at a terrible time for retailers. The weekend before Christmas is generally the busiest shopping period of the year. Pottery Barn on Market and Castro streets may have taken the biggest hit in the Castro. It and its neighboring business, the Arco

gas station, remained closed and dark through Sunday night, Warner said.

The outage was spotty in the Castro. The residential area above Arco, including the 300-block of Castro, remained dark Sunday night, while most of the rest of the Castro had its power restored.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company blamed the outage on a fire in its main substation on Mission and 8th streets. ▼

## Guest Opinion

◀ page 6

is all about, they would be enjoying God's gift so much that they wouldn't have time to worry about those of us God made differently. In the meantime, I'll keep receiving God's gift with thanksgiving because it is a very good thing. ▼

Robert Buchanan is an

Ecumenical Catholic minister and psychotherapist who lives with his partner of many years in Durham, North Carolina. He is the author of Love, Honor, and Respect: How to Confront Homosexual Bias and Violence in Christian Culture and director of the Institute for Inclusive Christianity, ([www.inclusivechristians.org](http://www.inclusivechristians.org)) an online training program for inclusive clergy. He may be reached at [bob@inclusivechristians.org](mailto:bob@inclusivechristians.org).

## YEAR IN REVIEW

# 2003 was a year of transition for national LGBT groups

by Bob Roeher

ver the course of little more than a year the leadership of most of the Washington-based national gay and lesbian organizations has changed. It marks a generational shift and the smoothness of those transitions indicates an increased professionalism of community organizations.



Patrick Guerriero

executive director in February. The political consultant and former director of external affairs for the late Florida Governor Lawton Chiles has continued to build the professionalism of the organization during the slow off-year election cycle.

Lorri Jean had come to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to help stabilize that organization after an earlier executive director, Elizabeth Toledo, didn't work out. The task completed, in March she accepted the challenge of returning to the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center.

Matt Foreman came down from the Empire State Pride Agenda to fill Jean's shoes at NGLTF. He is raising the visibility of the venerable organization and is guiding its transition to a primary focus on supporting local LGBT community organizations.

Elizabeth Birch announced she was stepping down after eight years at the helm of the Human Rights Campaign. The dedication of HRC's new building in October was a fitting cap to her success in building that organization into the largest and most professional LGBT political organization in the world.

Her right-hand man and communications guru David Smith departed soon after the dedication ceremony to head up the communications shop for Democratic power Senator Ted Kennedy (Massachusetts).

Cheryl Jacques will take over at HRC in January. In speaking with the press at the announcement of her appointment, the Massachusetts state senator and attorney said, "The most important tool in our arsenal in appealing to the hearts and minds of Americans is living our lives openly and honestly." However, Jacques, 41, only came out publicly a few years ago and declined to discuss that coming out process when asked.

Dave Noble became executive director of National Stonewall Democrats in February. The Rhode Island native and political consultant once headed up the Young Democrats of America. Stonewall has taken on a more visible, pro-active, and partisan stance since he arrived.

Chuck Wolfe joined the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund as its

new executive director in February.



Lorri Jean

Another notable transition was the swearing in of Democrat David Cicilline as mayor of Providence, Rhode Island in January. It is the largest city in the U.S. to have an openly gay mayor, though Paris and Berlin also have gay mayors.



Cheryl Jacques

That same month, in San Diego, Bonnie Dumanis was sworn in as the first openly gay or lesbian district attorney in the nation. She is a Republican. ▶

# Patient victory in medical marijuana suit

by Liz Highleyman

Patients who use medicinal cannabis were handed a major victory last Tuesday, December 16, when a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that cannabis users in states with medical marijuana laws could not be prosecuted under federal law if they do not engage in commercial transactions.

"The intrastate, noncommercial cultivation, possession, and use of marijuana for personal medical purposes on the advice of a physician is, in fact, different from drug trafficking," wrote Judge Harry Pregerson for the 2-1 majority.

It is the first high-level court ruling to call into question the

constitutionality of the federal Controlled Substances Act.

Last week's decision, which overturns a ruling by a district judge last March, is the outcome of an October 2002 lawsuit by Angel McClary Raich of Oakland and Diane Monson of Oroville.

Raich suffers from a brain tumor, wasting, and several other conditions, while Monson has chronic back pain. The two women sued Attorney General John Ashcroft and Asa Hutchinson, then head of the Drug Enforcement Administration, claiming they had a "very real fear" of having their medicine taken away and possibly being imprisoned. In August 2002, Monson's home was raided by the DEA and her cannabis plants were seized, although she was not charged.

"The government has waged a civil war against sick, disabled, and dying Americans," claimed Raich when she lodged the lawsuit last fall. Upon hearing Tuesday's ruling she said, "Today my faith in justice is restored."

The judges issued an injunction that prohibits federal action against patients in states with medical cannabis laws. California voters passed the Compassionate Use Act, or Proposition 215, in 1996. The ruling also applies to the six other states in the court's jurisdiction — Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington — that currently have such laws.

"This is an enormous victory," said Dale Gieringer of the California chapter of the National Orga-

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# Marriage begins to walk down the aisle for LGBT Americans

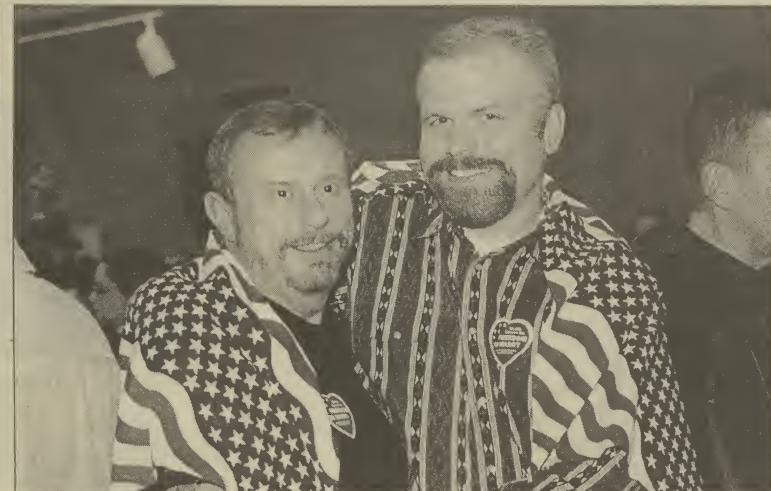
by Bob Roehr

This was the year that gay marriage became inevitable. A concept that a decade ago was barely on the minds of most members of the LGBT community, and then only in the form of some vague distant fairly tale, has now become a question of when and how the final details will be worked out.

In Canada, on June 10, the Ontario Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling to legally allow same-sex marriages, saying, "The existing common law definition of marriage violates the couple's equality rights on the basis of sexual orientation." Plaintiffs Michael Stark and Michael Leshner married that same day.

The province of British Columbia on the Pacific Coast became the second to legalize same-sex marriage a month later and Prime Minister Jean Chrétien said that his government would introduce similar national legislation in early 2004.

For social conservatives in the United States who see a homosexual threat to traditional marriage the danger was no longer confined to some small and dis-



Mike Holland, left, and Jim Gatteau at the community celebration of the decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. The San Francisco celebration was held at the LGBT Community Center on November 18.

suing its opinions and most expected the decision by early summer, but the wait stretched out to November 18.

"The Massachusetts Constitution affirms the dignity and equality of all individuals. It forbids the creation of second-class citizens ... the Commonwealth [of Massachusetts] has failed to identify any constitutionally adequate reason for denying civil marriage to same-sex couples," wrote Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall in the majority decision.

Reviewing state marriage law and implementation it summarized, "In short, for all the joy and solemnity that normally attend a marriage [the law] governing entrance to marriage is a licensing law."

"The marriage ban works a deep and scarring hardship on a very real segment of the community for no rational reason." Rather than throw out the marriage law as unconstitutional, it remanded the case to the trial court and delayed its implementation for 180 days "to permit the Legislature to take such action as it may deem appropriate in light of this opinion."

It was everything that advocates of same-sex marriage had next page ►

tant countries in Europe but had become as close as a day trip across the border to tie the knot.

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia warned in his antigay screed dissenting to the *Lawrence v. Texas* sodomy decision at the

end of June, "Today's opinion dismantles the structure of constitutional law that has permitted a distinction to be made between heterosexual and homosexual unions, insofar as formal recognition in marriage is concerned," opens the way to gay marriages.

All parties were anxious for the other shoe to drop, in the form of a ruling on same-sex marriage by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. That body has a tradition of rapidly is-

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## PACHA holds town hall meeting on Bush's Africa AIDS plan

by Bob Roehr

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which focuses primarily on Africa, was the topic of a town hall meeting at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, December 18. The International Subcommittee of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS held the meeting.

The large and diverse audience is "yet further proof of our nation's commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS," said Abner Mason, the chair of the subcommittee. "We owe it to those in need, to get the president's plan right."

"All of us need to approach this with a great deal of humility," said Joseph F. O'Neill. The former AIDS czar has moved over to the State Department as deputy coordinator and chief medical officer of the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator.

"Anyone who thinks they have the answer is wrong. It is going to come from a wide number of people and perspectives. It is going to be a bumpy process in getting there. ... There are a huge number of tensions and paradoxes that we need to resolve," said O'Neill. "We need to respond to an emergency, but we need to do it in a thoughtful, and deliberate, and considered way, and in a strategic way."

"One out of every two dollars spent in the world from the donor community on global HIV comes out of the wallets of U.S. taxpayers. We need to be accountable for those dollars. We need to get 2 million people in treatment by the year 2008," O'Neill said.

The strategic plan due to Congress by February 20 is a piece of



Abner Mason, left, and Joe O'Neill at the town hall meeting.

the process. He said, "It is a beginning, not the end of that process."

It is worth noting that Mason and O'Neill are openly gay. Until a few years ago that was grounds for denial of a security clearance and expulsion from the State Department. And now it is a non-issue.

Scores of organizations and individuals had signed up to present their three minutes of testimony to the committee on what they felt was important for PEPFAR. Many seemed to take a seasonal approach, offering a wish list to the federal Santa of what they wanted the program to give to their organization. But some spoke to broader goals and concerns.

Rachael Cohen, with Doctors Without Borders, said their patients in Africa adhere to therapy at rates exceeding 90 percent, at least as good as in the United States. Patient education and community mobilization are essential, she told the subcommi-

tee. With the price down to \$140 a year for a twice-daily generic pill containing three anti-HIV drugs, "It is possible to reach even the poorest and most vulnerable," Cohen said.

She said the U.S. government is supporting a trade policy that undermines the use of generics. "It is giving with one hand and taking away with the other." She urged a change in that policy.

Jodi Jacobson, with Health and Gender Equality, said that PEPFAR must address issues of the subordination of women, and empower them to take charge of their own protection as part of the prevention effort.

Numerous representatives of religious organizations stressed the importance of abstinence as a key, and in some cases the only, element of prevention activities. Some of their pleas for funding seemed the most naked and direct.

"Systems of care must reach next page ►

## YEAR IN REVIEW

# AIDS issues in 2003

by Bob Roeher

The international story dominated media coverage of the AIDS epidemic this year, thanks in part to a surprise announcement by George W. Bush in his State of the Union address on January 28. He proposed the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, a combination of prevention and therapy that will "treat at least 2 million people."

The president asked Congress "to commit \$15 billion over the next five years, including nearly \$10 billion in new money, to turn the tide against AIDS in the most affected nations in Africa and the Caribbean."

AIDS advocates warmly applauded the commitment, but by the end of the year some were complaining that not enough money was being spent now, while too much was deferred until later. There also was a growing acknowledgment that the greatest barrier to treating more Africans is the very limited number of trained medical personnel in those nations, and the difficulty of rapidly increasing that capacity.

Domestic advocates are growing increasingly frustrated that not enough attention or resources are being given to problems here at home. Terje Anderson, executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS, was careful to praise political leaders for their international initiative. But he questioned the administration's commitment to abstinence-only prevention programs and its willingness to devote more dollars to care.

Prevention activities continue

to be a flashpoint of contention. The CDC announced a program shift that many interpreted as away from a community-based approach to more of a medical model focusing on those already infected.



Ed Tepporn

"With these two shifts we are putting our already vulnerable communities at even more risk for HIV," Ed Tepporn, a program coordinator of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum, told the CDC prevention conference in Atlanta at the end of July. The thousands of community activists and service providers in the room exploded with applause.

Community organizations "will be forced to close down, leaving our communities who are already underserved even more so," he said. "We are being asked to make HIV testing part of medical care. Well that's a load of bull, when 42 million people do not have access to medical care. And people of color are among those

most impacted by HIV."

Another source of frustration has been the assault that social and congressional conservatives have made on community prevention activities and research. Agencies from coast to coast have been audited in detail, programs have been told to exclude sexual content, and some researchers have complained of "a McCarthy-like atmosphere" surrounding any studies that deal with sex.

Yet the CDC continues to point to rising cases of syphilis and sexually transmitted diseases among gay and bisexual men as reason to fear that the number of new HIV infections also is increasing, even while they restrict honest and explicit messages that have been proven to work among their targeted communities.

Neither the administration nor Congress seems inclined to appropriate the money necessary for services for the growing caseload as more people learn their serostatus and therapy is keeping more of them alive. The problem is most visible with the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, where 15 states already have waiting lists to join, and California is likely to cap entry to its program in January.

The recently passed Medicare reform also threatens to throw as many as 50,000 PWAs off the rolls unless changes are made.

"We need a similar commitment to the domestic agenda" that the Bush administration and Congress have made internationally, said Marsha Martin, executive director of the AIDS Action Council. "If we act like AIDS is over, it won't be."

The pipeline of drugs in development continues to offer new options that are easier to use, have



Marsha Martin

fewer side effects, and better resistance profiles. The big news was FDA approval of Fuzeon (T-20) in

March after a long and difficult development process. It is the first in a new class of drugs known as entry inhibitors.

Fuzeon also registered two other not so encouraging firsts; it must be injected twice a day and it carries a \$20,000 a year price tag, several times the cost of any other anti-HIV drugs. Its use is pretty much restricted to those who have run through all of their other options, and even then, fewer people are using it than the company had projected.

Just days after World AIDS Day, Abbott Laboratories announced that its price for Norvir, a protease inhibitor, had increased five-fold, drawing protest from AIDS advocates.

Progress in developing a vaccine to prevent HIV infection continues to be bogged down. ▼

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## Gay marriage

◀ page 12

hoped for, and everything that opponents had feared. Even the dissenting opinions from the court showed respect for gay citizens that would have been unlikely just a decade ago.

Social conservatives had proposed the Federal Marriage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as far back as July 2001 as the only way to ultimately ban gay marriage. It was introduced in the House in May 2002 but not in the Senate until November 25 of this year.

It reads in full: "Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution nor the constitution of any state, nor state or federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups."

"This amendment has very little to do with marriage as such; and everything to do with homo-

sexuality," opined gay conservative pundit Andrew Sullivan, writing in the New Republic Online. "If the social right wanted to shore up marriage, they could propose an amendment tightening up divorce laws ... but they haven't."

"The amendment is simply – and baldly – an attempt to ostracize a minority of Americans for good. It is an attempt to write them out of their own country."

Other political conservatives agreed. Former Representative Bob Barr (R-Georgia), chief author of the 1996 antigay Defense of Marriage Act, opposed the FMA and has said, "I think that the states ought to be able to make that decision themselves [on gay marriage or civil unions], as long as they do it properly."

Leading conservative columnists George F. Will and William Safire also oppose the FMA, while David Brooks has gone so far as to endorse same-sex marriage.

The White House has continued to walk the same narrow line, with President Bush affirming his belief that "marriage is between a

man and a woman." It has reiterated that it is studying legal aspects of the issue.

During a television interview with ABC's Diane Sawyer last week, Bush indicated he could support the FMA, but did not formally endorse it. He did reiterate his belief that marriage should be between a man and a woman.

The major Democratic candidates for president have performed their own waffling act. They strongly denounce discrimination against gays, but just as quickly dismiss the court's remedy for that discrimination and, like Bush, affirm their belief in marriage as being between a man and a woman. However, they all oppose the FMA.

National public opinion polls continue to find a majority of Americans opposed to same-sex marriage. However, there are pockets, such as Massachusetts, where a slim majority now supports the concept. And for most of those polled, regardless of their views, the issue is seldom of high importance. ▼

cil, drew upon her experience traveling in Africa earlier this year with some of the members of the subcommittee.

In South Africa they saw "a serious commitment by the corporate sector," she said. Botswana demonstrated the importance of leadership from the very top of the government. Uganda showed how "in partnership with the community" AIDS therapy can effectively be provided in rural areas.

Caesar Portillo reviewed the

clinic activity that the AIDS Healthcare Foundation is conducting at three sites in Africa and in Honduras. He said the decision to treat must be made locally.

He criticized the recently released first round of requests for proposals for PEPFAR as having "an arbitrary threshold of experience" for the organization in order to even apply for funding. He urged a loosening of those criteria "to ensure that people quickly get access to the best care that we can give." ▼

## PACHA

◀ previous page

out and embrace multiple levels of health care providers," said Ernest Hopkins. "With the proper support and mentorship, nurses and community health workers can deliver very high quality care." He represented the Pangaia Foundation of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Marsha Martin, executive director of the AIDS Action Coun-

# Nationally and locally, gender issues emerge front and center for 2003

by Zak Szymanski

Transgender activists have long argued that gender issues are a large part of gay life, and that relevant civil rights protections affect not just trans individuals but gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and even straights. This past year showed just how true that sentiment is, with a variety of events that highlighted both the differences and similarities between transgender and the broader LGBT community.

It was the deadliest year ever for transgender and others who were targeted for violence due to their physical presentation, with at least 38 victims reported murdered over the span of 12 months. It was a year that brought such violence into the spotlight with the start of legal proceedings against the young men allegedly responsible for killing local transgender teenager Gwen Araujo. As usual, it was also a year of stereotypes, with television shows earning ratings at the expense of the transgender community, and government officials reinforcing the notion of "deception" behind those who live or present as something other than their determined birth sex.

And yet for each piece of bad news there was a step toward



Transgender activist and B.A.R. columnist Gwen Smith, second from right, leads the Transgender Day of Remembrance march in the Castro on November 20.

Jane Philomen Cleland

progress, with transgender-inclusive legislation passing in California and other cities and states across America; positive images of

transgenders shown throughout the media; and many transgenders making headlines for something other than their gender identity.

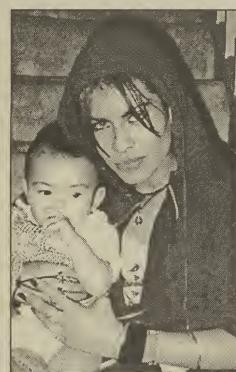
The year began predictably enough with condemnation from the Catholic Church, when it was revealed in January that the Vatican's doctrinal congregation had sent church leaders a confidential document stating that sex-change procedures do not change a person's gender, and that Catholic transsexuals are not eligible for marriage or religious life, due to their "mental pathologies." The report was quickly answered by Metropolitan Community Church with the Reverend Troy D. Perry stating, "We should celebrate people who have often made great sacrifices to grapple with issues of gender variation and who are committed to living their lives with openness and authenticity," and transgender clergy person the Reverend Dr. Justin Tanis summarizing, "This may raise medical questions for some, but it does not raise moral questions."

In February, a transgender man in Florida won custody of his children when a judge ruled that he was legally male under Florida law and therefore entitled to be a recognized father in his former marriage.

The first of its kind ruling in Florida courts affirmed that Michael Kantaras was legally married, could legally adopt his estranged wife's teenage son, and could be listed as the father of the child the couple conceived with donated sperm.

"The marriage law of Florida clearly provides that marriage shall take place between one man and one woman," stated the decision. "It does not provide when such status of being a man or woman shall be determined."

The case – aided by San Francisco attorney Shannon Minter of the National Center for Lesbian Rights – could provide a legal definition of gender in the state and also give non-biological parents a legal foundation for custody.



Gwen Araujo

them touch her genitals, and recommended anal rather than vaginal sex. At the party, said Nabors, Magidson pushed Araujo to the ground and pulled down her skirt and underwear to reveal male genitalia, then proceeded to choke her. Merel began crying, "I can't be fucking gay," said Nabors, and struck Araujo in the head with a metal skillet. The beating and strangling continued for hours, said Nabors, who accompanied Cazares to his home to get some shovels, and upon return, found Araujo sitting on a couch, blood gushing from her head. The friends carried her off to keep the carpet clean, said Nabors, with Cazares kicking Araujo and twice hitting her in the head with a shovel to make sure she was dead.

Nabors's testimony provided enough evidence for the three remaining defendants to be held over for trial and charged with murder with hate crime enhancement, the court ruled in March. Cazares, Magidson, and Merel all pleaded innocent and a judge refused to overturn the murder charges when the issue came up again in July.

## Spring fever

San Francisco activist Theresa Sparks became the first transgender person to be honored as "Woman of the Year" by the state Legislature when Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) recognized her achievements on the Assembly floor. Another Leno – Jay Leno of *The Tonight Show* – used the award as fodder for his monologue on March 31, and his comments were quickly condemned by the LGBT community.

"In a country where no positive accomplishments of transgenders are ever reported for fear of promoting a 'transgendered lifestyle,' it's curious that belittling humor of these same people is openly welcomed," said National Transgender Advocacy Coalition director Vanessa Edwards Foster.

March welcomed transgender-inclusive legislation in New Mexico, with a historic statewide hate crimes bill and nondiscrimination bill gaining passage within days of each other.

Conversely, in April, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force announced that it had chosen Matt Foreman as its next executive director. Despite its reputation as being an unapologetically progressive arm of the LGBT movement, NGLTF hired Foreman on the heels of his decision not to support transgender inclusion in New York state's Sexual Orientation Nondiscrimination Act of December 2002, for fear that it would lead to the bill's defeat. Foreman was director of the Empire State Pride Agenda at the time of SONDA's passage. When Foreman left ESPA, Assemblyman Tom Duane (D-New York) introduced gender-inclusive nondiscrimination legislation to the state Legislature.

Locally, transgender issues made subtle yet influential appearances as criminal proceedings continued against Jack Broughton of Walnut Creek, the man accused of beating two women at Studio Z during the San Francisco Drag King contest in 2002.

According to witnesses, Broughton's part in an alleged hate

**next page ▶**

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## YEAR IN REVIEW

## Gender issues

◀ previous page

crime attack occurred on August 22, 2002, when he and his companion, Jean Earl, were evicted from the bar for allegedly unruly behavior, including their racist and homophobic comments.

Victims Yvette Balderas and Mariah Sparks were watching a spoken word performance by Other Brothers, a group of transgender and butch people of color, when Earl allegedly hit Balderas in the mouth. Outside the bar, said Balderas, Earl allegedly took another swing, and Balderas swung back, knocking Earl to the ground. At that time, said witnesses, Broughton approached and punched Balderas several times in the back of the head, then kicked her repeatedly while she lay unconscious, calling her homophobic names. When Sparks tried to intervene, she said, he punched her as well.

It is unclear how Broughton viewed the women he allegedly attacked; witnesses said the insults he hurled toward his victims included words like, "faggot." The transgender aspect of the assault also threw Broughton's first attorney off guard, who on one hand used gender stereotypes to characterize the lesbians in the bar as "tough women" looking to attack straight people, and on the other hand was confused by the fact that the queer-identified victim Sparks is the life partner of a (transgender) man.

Defense tactics failed in May when a San Francisco Superior Court judge ruled that Broughton should face charges of aggravated assault, resisting arrest, and a hate crime enhancement. The hate crime charge remains under attack, however, and is expected to be challenged by the defense again at the beginning of next year.

## Summer heat

As Pride celebrations occurred around the country, transgenders and their allies erupted over the publication of *The Man Who Would Be Queen*, a book by J. Michael Bailey that presents itself as fact without the inclusion of any research methods or data and narrowly defines male-to-female transsexuals as either effeminate gay men or masculine men suffering from "autogynephilia," or the eroticization of themselves in female form. Transsexuals who deny being in one of these two camps are presumed to be self-deceptive, according to Bailey, who also notes that most gay men were considered effeminate during childhood, but chose not to become women because they did



Assemblyman Mark Leno, center, with local leaders at his August 4 news conference celebrating Governor Gray Davis signing AB196.

end of September, the City Council pledged to work with the advocacy group Not in Newark to draft legislative protections for sexual minorities.

November brought the annual transgender Day of Remembrance, and with it, the sad reality that this year saw 38 reports of anti-transgender killings worldwide, including a rash of transgender murders in Washington, D.C., and two Bay Area shootings.

On September 30, Sindy Cuarda, a 24-year-old from Richmond, California, was found bleeding from several gunshot wounds on a street in San Pablo. About a month later, Stanley Van Dyke Traylor, 38, was found gunned down in the middle of a West Oakland street. Both victims were biologically male and dressed in female attire at the time of their murder, and both may have been involved in sex work.

Although the increased number of incidents worldwide may be due to better reporting mechanisms, the motivations behind such killings remain the same: a view of transgenders as "it" or as "sex objects" that, according to advocates, renders them "inhuman" to their attackers. Transgenders are often the most visible presence of people who challenge "appropriate" male and female expression.

Such variety and diversity, of course, is something to be celebrated, and locally, the San Francisco Transgender Steering Committee, along with UCSF's CAPS and the LGBT Community Center held a "T Party" last Thursday, December 18, for community members to spend the holidays and end the year with new and familiar faces. Performers included San Francisco Human Rights Commission's Marcus Arana and the world's first transgender gospel choir, Transcendence.

The event served, according to organizers, as "an opportunity for all of the trans community to come together under one roof, and be thankful for the year we've had, which includes important legislation that has moved forward to protect our human and civil rights." ▼

not think they would be good looking females.

Bailey, a professor at Northwestern University, cited most of his examples from gay bars and sex worker circles, and reportedly did so without informed consent from those he interviewed.

In July, Pennsylvania Governor

crimination."

California's law covers everybody – whether gay, straight, bisexual, or transgender – and protects them from discrimination on the basis of stereotypes around how they should act or present in conjunction with their real or perceived gender.

## In September, it was revealed that United States officials had made a subtle yet dangerous inference that people who appear to be "disguised" as the opposite sex may be terrorists.

Ed Rendell signed an executive order banning discrimination against state employees based on gender identity or expression, and the San Diego City Council also added the words "gender identity" to its workplace protection ordinance.

San Francisco's Assemblymember Leno pushed his historic AB196 through the state Senate at the end of the month, which added gender identity or expression to the characteristics already protected under the state's Fair Employment and Housing Act. Governor Gray Davis signed the bill on August 2, making California the fourth state in the nation to make such discrimination illegal.

"This is a significant piece of civil rights legislation," said Leno after the governor signed AB196. "We have had a segment of our community who up until now had no protection against dis-

Across the Atlantic, the United Kingdom saw both progress and defeat when London's Metropolitan Police force announced that transgender officers would be given paid leave for their sexual reassignment surgeries, but a court ruled that a London post office could ban a male-to-female employee from its women's restroom.

## Free fall

The transgender community was propelled into action as the seasons changed and the year came to a close.

In September, it was revealed that United States officials had made a subtle yet dangerous inference that people who appear to be "disguised" as the opposite sex may be terrorists hoping to avoid suspicion.

The Department of Homeland Security report – issued to all fed-

eral departments and agencies, homeland security advisers, first responders and information sharing and analysis centers – stated, "Terrorists will employ novel methods to artfully conceal suicide devices. Male bombers may dress as females in order to discourage scrutiny."

But neither DHS nor airport security officials were familiar with the passage when questioned by the *Bay Area Reporter*, an even greater sign of danger, according to advocates like NTAC's Foster, that the statement will not be interpreted uniformly. Traveling transsexuals, transgenders, and crossdressers should therefore take precautions, said Foster, including carrying legal documentation of their name and/or sex change, and cooperating fully with authorities if questioned.

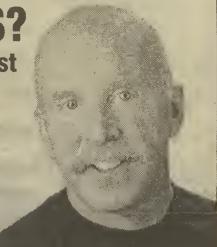
October marked the one-year anniversary of Araujo's death, and as such, a year of progress in the Newark town, according to local media. Newark police announced plans for diversity trainings; the gay straight alliance at the high school became active; and at the

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## Medical pot

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nization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. "This essentially makes Proposition 215 federal law in California."

Federal law regulates drugs under the interstate commerce clause. The plaintiffs argued that medical cannabis use that occurs in the same state in which the plant was grown and that involves no monetary transactions does not count as interstate commerce. They also argued that federal drug law violates the fifth, ninth, and 10th amendments, as well as the right to be free of pain and suffering.

Last week the court agreed with the first argument, writing that "cultivation, possession, and use of marijuana for medicinal purposes and not for exchange or

distribution is not properly characterized as commercial or economic activity."

Tuesday's decision applies to patients and their caregivers. Another case pending before the same court, filed by the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana after an October 2002 federal raid on the group's Santa Cruz marijuana garden, asks the justices to decide whether a similar rationale applies to non-commercial cooperatives that provide marijuana to members for free. The recent ruling does not appear to apply to dispensaries that sell marijuana.

The Justice Department has not yet indicated whether it will appeal the decision, but many medical cannabis advocates expect the case will go on to the Supreme Court. The high court ruled in May 2001 that the Controlled Substances Act makes no

exceptions for medical use, but at the time Justice Clarence Thomas noted that several constitutional issues, including interstate commerce, remained unresolved.

## A year of change

In years to come, 2003 may be remembered as the year the tide began to turn in favor of medical marijuana users. Last June, a federal judge sentenced Ed Rosenthal – who had been deputized by the city of Oakland to grow cannabis for local patients – to just one day in prison. In October, the Supreme Court let stand a decision by the 9th Circuit barring the federal government from punishing physicians who recommend cannabis to patients.

"This is the beginning of the end for the federal assault on state medical marijuana laws," said Hilary McQuie of Oakland-based Americans for Safe Access. ▼

## Blackface

◀ page 1

nyshack," Heklina told the *Bay Area Reporter*, adding that she would not be comfortable performing in blackface because she is not black, and that she can understand why some people would be upset by the performance.

But a host of LGBT people say there are many reasons to expect that even a deliberately offensive show would have certain standards.

"The performance I saw could not be categorized as 'reclaiming' anything in my mind because people of color and especially black people were not included or represented either onstage or in the audience. The racial identity of the blackface performer was not clear," explained the original Craigslist poster, who asked to be identified in the B.A.R. only by the initials K.R.

For members of the transgender person of color performance troupe Other Brothers, a blackface performance that lacks a political antiracist message crosses the line no matter who performs it.

"Even if the person who performed it is biracial, that doesn't always mean they have a political analysis to go with what bringing out such a stereotyped performance can mean," said Other Brothers member LaTricia Ransom, who makes a distinction between movies like Spike Lee's *Bamboozled*, which showed the absurdity of racism, and a performer using racial absurdity to gain white laughs. "I also take exception to a black person performing this for a largely white audience ... what a way to let the audience off the hook for its own racism."

Other Brothers member Prado Gomez agreed.

"When the hell does the 'community' get held accountable for its racist behavior? Because, frankly, I think all that will happen in this

case is the same thing that always happens – the people speaking out will be dismissed as being too sensitive with no sense of humor. I am as sarcastic, campy, bitchy, and at times as distasteful as the next queer, but too many things have crossed the line; this is one of them," said Gomez. "These same folks expect the 'community' to jump on anti-trans, anti-queer, homophobic, transphobic, heterosexist incidents but to brush off their racism disguised as humor. Bullshit."

This is the double standard that most troubles an Other Brothers performer who goes only by E, who said that the people who are quick to compare gay rights to the civil rights movement are also often the same ones who are silent on race issues.

"The 'community' is always riding on the coattails of the civil



RICK GERHARTER

Trannyshack's Heklina defends the December 16 "Ebonica Hanukkah" show.

rights movement of people of color to push forward themselves," he said, adding that a bra-

cial person's participation "does not make him, or make me assume that he identifies with the people of color communities."

The blackface performer was identified as Daniel Kinstedt, according to Heklina. Kinstedt did not return phone calls from the B.A.R. by press time, but Heklina said that the uproar was essentially an overreaction.

"I'm fed up with the whole knee-jerk political correctness thing that says 'you can't do that,'" said Heklina.

But the Trannyshack incident is merely the icing on the cake for many, who have followed what they consider to be a string of recent racist incidents within the gay community – from a November 13 column in the *Bay Times* entitled, "Black Fuckers Have AIDS," that led to the firing of

columnist Woody Miller, to the availability of racially stereotyped dolls at stores around the Castro.

And for angry people like K.R., the answer is not to dismiss the latest controversy as harmless, but rather, to take some time to be educated about why blackface performances could be harmful.

"We're all racist. I think we all need to be working on it every day. I do not like to hierarchize oppression. I think racism, sexism, and heterosexism are too inextricably linked to address separately. In my experience, even males who think critically about race often do not acknowledge male privilege," said K.R. "We all benefit from certain levels of privilege and face certain forms of oppression. I think all we can do is try to listen and learn from those different from us." ▼

## AB205

◀ page 1

defines marriage as solely between a man and a woman. The two are suing the state in court to prevent the law from going into effect, which is scheduled to happen on January 1, 2005.

Progay groups and former Davis administration officials have repeatedly argued that AB205 does not violate Proposition 22 because it does not allow same-sex couples to marry. It does confer many rights and responsibilities that married couples receive to same-sex couples who register as domestic partners with the state.

In a statement issued in August when he pledged to sign the bill, Davis said the Office of Legislative Counsel had determined that AB205 does not violate Proposition 22.

"We are extremely relieved that the court did the right thing," said

Johnny Symons and William Rogers, one of 12 couples who intervened in the lawsuit to defend the new domestic partnership law. "As parents, we are doing everything in our power to protect our two young children. But without the protections in AB205, our family will never have the same security as other families."

Other couples who have joined the lawsuit include San Francisco judges Donna Hitchens and Nancy Davis, lesbian pioneers Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin of San Francisco, and Aptos couple Deborah Lynn Johnson and Valerie Fiddmont.

"This lawsuit put our family in harm's way. I've been with my partner for more than 20 years, but if this lawsuit succeeds, I'd be seen as a legal stranger to the woman I love in all kinds of tough situations," said Kay Smith, from Riverside, who is participating in the lawsuit with her partner. "The people of California believe in this legislation and in fairness for everyone, but a small and vocal group of extremists insists on trying to take that away. We need and deserve to be able to get married, but this law doesn't give us marriage; it just gives us some basic protections other families take for granted."

With the court victory the secretary of state's office can now

begin mailing out notifications to the state's registered domestic couples explaining the new legal protections and responsibilities AB205 will grant them. As for the lawsuit, the judge has yet to set the next court date.

Fighting the lawsuit along with the 12 couples are Equality California, the statewide lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender advocacy organization and a sponsor of AB205. Seven couples and Equality California are represented by the law office of EQCA Vice President David C. Codell in Los Angeles; the American Civil Liberties Union affiliates in Northern California, Southern California, and San Diego; and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Five of the couples are represented by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

"The ruling today is a victory not only for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, but for all fair-minded Californians who believe that families should be treated equally under the law, regardless of the gender or sexual orientation of family members," stated Geoffrey Kors, executive director of Equality California, last Thursday.

"By enacting AB205 the California Legislature has recognized that gay people in committed relationships should not be denied

protections for their relationships," said attorney Codell. "It's great news for all the California couples who need these protections that the court does not think challenges to the law are likely to succeed."

Signed into law by former Governor Davis on September 19 at a packed ceremony held at the LGBT Community Center in San Francisco, the new law provides basic protections and imposes significant responsibilities on registered domestic partners in California. Protections for families headed by same-sex couples include: community property, mutual responsibility for debt, parenting rights and obligations such as custody and support, and the ability to claim a partner's body after death.

The law does not allow for joint tax filing and certain other protections under state law, and does not provide access to over 1,000 federal protections that married couples enjoy.

"AB205 is not just about rights – it is also about responsibilities," noted NCLR Executive Director Kate Kendell. "A key role of government is to help support the stability of all families by clearly identifying the rights and responsibilities that family members have towards one another. Quite simply, this is what AB205 does." ▼

## NYE parties

◀ page 3

counting down to the new year at the party. The party will be held at 44 Tehama at 1st, the same warehouse space as the opera party.

Tickets cost \$30 in advance and can be purchased at Café Flore, Market at Noe streets; and BPM Records, 573 Hayes Street. Once the new year rolls in, tickets at the door will cost \$40.

As reported last week, the producers of last year's Friction NYE are once again hosting their party this year. Now that the event has been moved to the venue Terra at 511 Harrison Street, the promoters have opened the party to the public and are now able to accommodate up to 750 people. Tickets, which cost \$30, will now be sold at the door.

At Mezzanine, Falcon Studios Director Chi Chi LaRue and the company's bevy of hot boys, including Tyler Gunn, Josh Weston, Gus Mattox, and Max Diesel, will help with the countdown to midnight. Star 69 recording artist Suzanne Palmer will make her first ever Mezzanine performance singing songs from her upcoming debut album and DJs Lydia Prim, Jamie J. Sanchez, and Paulo will take turns working the turntables.

The party takes place from 9



RICK GERHARTER

p.m. to 9 a.m. at 444 Jessie Street at Mint. Advance tickets cost \$40 and are available in the Castro at Body and Injeanious. The party will cost \$50 at the door.

If you just want to get away from the city for the night, the Monterey Bay Aquarium is kicking off its 20th anniversary year with a dance party among the sea creatures in its award-winning galleries.

The festivities include live music by Larry Lynch and the Mob, a Bay Area band that plays popular dance tunes from the past six decades. Festivities begin at 9 p.m. and continue until 1 a.m.

amid drifting jellies, gliding sharks, and the many otherworldly creatures that have made the aquarium one of the nation's top travel destinations since it first opened its doors in 1984.

The celebration will feature no-host cocktails, and no-host hors d'oeuvre and dessert bars, plus a complimentary champagne toast and noisemakers. An optional strolling gourmet dinner from 7 to 9 p.m. gives guests an opportunity to explore the aquarium's award-winning Outer Bay galleries and dine by candlelight as giant tunas, sea turtles, dolphin fish, ocean sunfish and hammerhead sharks swim past. Dizzy Burnett and Grover Coe will entertain.

Tickets to the New Year's Eve party and dance are \$50 per person. The optional VIP strolling dinner in the Outer Bay galleries costs \$130 per person. Dinner tickets include admission to the party from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Space for the dinner is limited; early purchase of tickets is recommended.

For reservations, call the aquarium's event sales office at (831) 647-6877 or visit [www.montereybayaquarium.org](http://www.montereybayaquarium.org) for more details.

The Monterey Plaza Hotel is offering special room rates starting at \$225. For reservations call (800) 334-3999. ▼



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## OBITUARIES

## Internet

◀ page 1

any other single venue.

After analyzing the city's surveillance data and syphilis case reports, health officials concluded that during the summer of 1999, an outbreak of syphilis among gay men who met their sex partners on the Internet presaged the city's rapidly expanding syphilis epidemic.

By 2002, San Francisco had the highest rates of primary and secondary syphilis of any metropolitan area in the United States. Though data does suggest syphilis cases are now declining among gay men in San Francisco, it still remains a top concern for health officials.

While the ease of meeting men online is seen as a major part of the problem, health officials also view the Internet as part of the remedy.

"The Internet has the potential to increase the spread of HIV and STDs, but also has unique characteristics which, if we take advantage of them, can help reduce transmission," said Theresa Raphael, executive director of the National Coalition of STD Directors. "What this MMWR points out is the importance of men continuing to keep track of their partners, so that if they do contract an STD, they can let them know."

## SF efforts

Jeffrey Klausner, the director of STD control for San Francisco, has long pushed using the Internet as a means for emphasizing safe sex practices. He pushed Internet providers to give health officials access to chat rooms, place banner ads with safe sex information that was clearly visible to users, and even writes his own safe sex column for Gay.com.

The city has instituted an online notification strategy where men who test positive for syphilis provide health workers with the e-mail addresses of their sexual partners. First, the individual is asked to notify his partners, and that e-mail is followed up with one sent from health department staffers.

In order to ensure the e-mails are read, and not seen as spam and deleted, the department guidelines advise that the e-mail headings should reference a specific health matter but not mention the person has been exposed to an STD. All messages should be sent individually and not as a large group message, so as to ensure confidentiality.

Writing in their report, San Francisco officials state "other jurisdictions can examine the online social/sexual networks that are used commonly in their gay and bisexual communities and develop an effective means of communicating prevention and control messages online."

Another tool health departments and community groups can use is a new documentary released last week by openly gay Oakland filmmaker Todd Ahlberg. The film, which is called *Hooked* and was shown at over 35 film festivals in 2003, is an in-depth look into the world of "online cruising" within the gay culture. It can be found at [www.hookedmovie.com](http://www.hookedmovie.com).

Ahlberg explores what makes the Internet so seductive, alluring, and, for many, a habit-forming addiction. The film also examines how the emerging gay generation's attitudes toward sex, STDs, and intimacy are being influenced by the online cruising phenomenon.

"For a lot of guys common sense, or their usual MO in how they approach sex, is thrown out



Dr. Jeffrey Klausner

the window," when they go online, said Ahlberg. "In the film, a few guys talk about that. They said 'I knew I was exposing myself, I knew I was putting myself at risk, but it didn't matter. I just needed to do what I needed to do to get off.' It is so darn easy, and frankly can be quite hot, that it becomes a mission to land a trick for a night."

With concern growing among many state and local STD public program directors over the issue, the NCSD is also stepping up the pressure on Internet service providers and calling on them to help take measures to reduce HIV and STD transmission. The organization represents the 65 directors of public health sexually transmitted disease prevention programs in states, large cities/counties, and territories of the United States.

The coalition co-sponsored the first national conference on STD/HIV Prevention and the Internet with the CDC in August 2003. Raphael said that health officials have little hope of reaching Internet users without the help of ISPs. Thus, NCSD is calling on ISPs to assist in the prevention and control of sexually transmitted diseases.

"For example, some Internet service providers are already encouraging their patrons to disclose their risk behaviors and HIV status to one another by asking them to fill out 'user profiles' for others to see," Raphael said. "These providers have learned that 'don't ask, don't tell' can have serious health consequences. And if Internet service providers continue to ask, more men will tell," she said.

Ahlberg, who screened his film at the conference this summer, said he agrees with the coalition's stance. While he understands the Web site owners have a business to run, he said there is certainly room for these sites to act responsibly.

"The thing about the whole Internet realm is it is extremely seductive. It allows people to really let their guard down and start to forget what is important to them, about staying safe and caring about their health," he said. "I think the sex sites do have a responsibility to be aware that their clientele is not the same clientele as a bar."

He added that the anonymity of the Internet allows men to engage in unsafe behaviors they may not otherwise do.

"If you go to a bar and are looking to bareback, that is still generally frowned upon in the gay community. We know the consequences," said Ahlberg. "Whereas you can be anonymous on the other side of a computer screen and just put up a pic of your torso or dick. If someone passes because you don't want to have safe sex, they move on. You do that in a bar, you gain a reputation." ▶

There are chat rooms and Web sites that are trying to help, and Raphael praised two sites in particular for their approach. The first is a Dutch site [www.dateguide.nl](http://www.dateguide.nl) which provides a unique model for assessing risk and providing tailored information to each patron. The second is [www.SafeSexCity.com](http://www.SafeSexCity.com), which launched this fall and was created by San Francisco resident Frank Strona.

This site specifically caters to men who want to be safe at all times, and are committed to halting the spread of STDs and HIV," said Raphael.

Communities large and small in states across the U.S., including Washington state, Missouri, Texas, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania, have reported chat rooms being used by individuals to meet new sexual partners. The Internet is quickly becoming the new "bar scene," enabling strangers to quickly and easily identify potential partners and set up sexual encounters both at home and while out of town.

But Ahlberg warned that the role the Internet plays is far more dangerous than a bathhouse or sex club does. Just in sheer volume alone, he said the Internet is a huge cause of concern.

"A lot of people say this is a modern day bathhouse. I categorically disagree. You are not going to go to a bathhouse every single night," he said. "Online it is so darn easy that from the comfort of your own home in boxers you can find a guy you like for that evening."

For some men, going online is part of their nightly ritual, Ahlberg said.

"I talk to one guy in the film and he said he would log on at night and go do the dishes. Then he would check his screen to see if anyone had popped up and check their stats," he said. "If someone looked interesting, then with a few more keystrokes and a few minutes later, they were at his door."

Just as state and local health officials have reached out to the bars and bathhouses where individuals meet, they now need to reach into cyberspace to alert at-risk populations to the dangers of unprotected sex.

"The way we use the Internet continues to change and expand, which presents new public health challenges that must be addressed," said Raphael. "Yet it also affords us the opportunity to reach the public in a whole new and effective way. The public health community must seize this opportunity to adapt current STD/HIV prevention and control strategies to the Internet, as well as find a way to work with Internet service providers to curb the Internet's facilitation of the spread of sexually transmitted diseases." ▶

## OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

## Pieter Neleman

Note from Sweet Lips: Ann Dolyniuk has some very sad news to report. Last week she received a message in Dutch — "De Nederlandse Amerikaan is hegegaan" — but until fur (the cutie at the Cinch) confirmed the meaning, she was hoping she was mistaken. Alas, Pieter Neleman, born February 26, 1927, died December 4, 2003. Just last month Ann had called Pieter and would have talked longer had she known this would be the last conversation with him. Farewell, Pieter — rest in peace.

## Terry Stephen Tannen

Terry Stephen Tannen died unexpectedly from a stroke in San Francisco, California, on October 15, 2003, at the age of 54. Born in El Campo, Texas, on December 13, 1948, Terry was the oldest child of Harry and Mary Tannen. He grew up in Weimar before leaving for military school in San Antonio at the age of 12. After graduating with honors from Texas Military Institute, Terry

moved to Cleveland, Ohio, to live with his grandparents and perform in summer theater stock. He returned to Texas and attended the University of Texas at Austin where he excelled in the drama department. He also attended Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Terry's acting career took him from Austin to New York and London where he performed with entertainers Vanessa Redgrave and Tommy Tune.

During the 1970s, Terry owned a breakfast-in-bed catering business and a fine cheese shop in Austin. Moving to San Francisco, Terry worked in the food business before becoming a paralegal. He worked at several companies, including AT&T, and lastly at Verizon.

Terry's passions included doting over his nieces, cooking for friends, walking, bicycling, swimming, exercising, reading, listening to music, writing the funniest postcards, and collecting fine rugs and comic books. Because of his long-time commitment to a healthy lifestyle, friends and family are shocked by his sudden, early death. He will be remembered for his kindness, ebullience, generosity, and playful sense of humor — and his tasty cooking!

His parents, Harry and Mary, and his one true love, Rick Mitrano, preceded Terry in death. He leaves his adored sister, Ann T. DeBolt, brother-in-law, Terry, and doted-upon nieces Leah, Abby and Laura, of Brenham, Texas, and also his sweet brother David, sister-in-law Marilyn, and nephew Blake, of Shreveport, Louisiana, and a devoted cadre of friends, among them Flynn, his adoring Kitty Wives (Rhett and Debbie), Tracy, Emily, Ray, "Rug" Greg, and his favorite culture date of all time, Ruth.

Terry's memorial gathering will be held from 2 p.m. through sunset on January 3, 2004, at the Kitty Wives' home, 324 Cumberland St. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your choice of charity.



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# Pigskinny

by Jim Provenzano

**F**ootball follies for the year offered a wide array of homophobia, from hateful epithets to stylish queerifications. For this Ohio-bound scribbler, it gave me an extra context for discussions with my football fan father.

## Regular guise

Defensive end Patrick Kerney, an Atlanta Falcon since 1999, issued an apology earlier this month, two days after asking, on World AIDS Day, why there isn't also a "World Cancer Day."

During his weekly on-air visit to Atlanta's WKLS 96 radio program, the Regular Guys, Kerney sarcastically said, "People who get cancer, it's usually their fault" and getting "AIDS, it's just bad luck."

Sarcasm often being a ruse for one's actual thoughts, and shock radio being a veritable dungpile of idiocy, Kerney's comments were hardly out of the norm.

A December 4 broadcast of the Regular Guys repeatedly played a "No Homos on the Falcons" cheer. Several other on-air references to "fags" and a campaign to save "Smear the Queer" games in phys. ed. classes are only part of the show's program.

Yet, Kerney apologized after being goaded into his statement in a discussion of the TV miniseries *The Reagans* and its references to the former president's avoidance of the epidemic.

I wonder if Kerney even knows

anyone with AIDS, or how many millions of people he insulted. Funny how an apology can be tossed out as easily as an insult, and only after activists focus on once incident, while ignoring others.

## Lion down

But no one could ignore the extraordinary idiocy of Detroit Lions President Matt Millen.

Already on the brink of being fired for an incredibly losing season, Millen's team tied a record 23 straight road losses. He's made bad player personnel moves, and he's become the laughing stock of the National Football League.

Millen's legacy of incompetence has a long trail, from his attack on his own players in a radio interview, where he called a player a "devout coward," to his exclusionary hiring practices, which led to a \$200,000 fine. Strangely, calling former player Johnnie Morton a "faggot" twice has not led to any fines, or his dismissal.

The last straw for Detroit residents stems from an incident two weeks ago, where Millen was talking with Kansas City players and coaches outside their locker room after the Chiefs' 45-17 victory. Morton was fired by Millen after the 2001 season and is now a wide receiver for the Chiefs.

The play by play:

Millen: "Hey, Johnnie."

Morton ignores him.

Millen: "Nice talking to you."

Morton: "Kiss my ass."

Millen: "Hey, you faggot! You faggot."

The armchair quarterbacking:

"[Morton] made an inappropriate remark, and I reacted inappropriately," Millen said. "I said something I shouldn't have, which was wrong, and I apologize to anybody that I offended with that remark."

Morton apologized for his part in the exchange.

"What he said is demeaning and bigoted," Morton told the *Kansas City Star*. "Jeremy Shockley got in trouble for saying it about a coach, and now we have a president of a team making statements



Johnnie Morton surfs past homophobia.

like that. It's totally unacceptable. I have gay friends, and I don't even joke around with them like that."

Morton posed shirtless in the 2000 *Sports Illustrated for Women* to some acclaim.

The war of words continued in Detroit newspapers, particularly in the *Detroit Free Press*.

Among the most pointed was from a teenage jock. "As a gay high school student in Dearborn Heights, I was very disappointed to hear of Matt Millen's remarks," wrote Bretton Barber. "Homophobia is rampant in society, and these hateful words from a role model in the community set a poor example for everyone, especially high school students. As a result of the same types of words Millen used, 61.1 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students experience some form of verbal harassment in school, and 27.6 percent experience some type of physical harassment. It is no wonder why one-third of self-identified lesbian and gay teens have attempted suicide."

"While Millen's apology was a nice gesture, it does not go nearly far enough to rectify the situation."

He must resign immediately to show those who look up to him in the community that these comments are unacceptable and have their consequences.

"With any luck, his resignation can influence those who behave in similar ways to stop the harassment."

Strange how a kid can be more eloquent than an NFL executive.

Fortunately, in between football games, I got to enjoy watching *Drumline* on HBO, and feast upon what's always been my favorite part of the game – the half-time show.

## Ray of Light

Fortunately, another football player's got a bit more gay-friendly attitude, and may be able to express it on TV.

New England Patriot Matt Light, the 305-pound tackle with a scruffy beard, has volunteered to appear on the Bravo show, *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*.

When the show's producers pitched the idea, Patriots spokesman Stacey James said he had Light in mind right from the start.

"Matt just has this great sense of humor," he said. "He seemed like the kind of guy who would just go with it."

Turns out, the big guy is a big fan of Bravo's hit makeover show.

on the fact that men don't need to be flippant fashion fops to be gay.

It's a far cry from having an openly gay football player, but it's a darn sight better than recent Millen-eries.

## Ballsy

Meanwhile, in the comparatively gay-gonzo country of Brazil, yet another major soccer star has shed any trace of homophobia, and his clothes, to pose in the ever-popular *G* magazine.

After being wooed for three years, Tulio "Wonder" Maravilha, Team Botafogo's top player, accepted the invitation of *G* magazine, after his wife negotiated for him, and helped "inspire" him during the photo shoot.

Maravilha's naked accomplishments are preceded by four other soccer stars: Bruno Calvalho, Dinei Vampeta, Jose Noronha, and Silva Roger. Roger was dismissed by the Sao Paolo team for not getting permission to pose, while Vampeta continued playing, and was part of 2003's World Cup championship team.

Still, it seems like the sport itself is decidedly more gay-friendly. In an online chat transcript (roughly translated from my online help), Tulio said that he has gay friends, that there are gay players, and that his team and administration supported his sexy modeling job.

"Between the players it is very rare to see any type of discrimination, either of race, religion or sexual orientation," said Tulio in *G*. "We coexist very well. Some players are gay, and in the group people always know who is homosexual."

Fans are thrilled by the magazine.

One Brazilian Web blogger, Waldir Leite, wrote that he could "extract all the poetry of the world of those meaty thighs... I ask for license to weave some commentaries on one of the biggest wonders of the Brazilian soccer."

I'll be a wonder if American football ever catches up to "futbol" in terms of maturity, bravery, and saucy audacity. ▼

For more athletic wonders, visit [www.sportscomplex.org](http://www.sportscomplex.org).



Matt Light wants to be queerified.

"He said, 'I watch that all the time. I'm just what they're looking for. I'm all scruffy and I have no fashion sense.'"

Actually, patrons of the Lone Star might think him just the guy to give the Fab Five a few lessons



Tulio has ball(s) of steel

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## CLASSIFIEDS

## Center

◀ page 5

Executive Director Brian Cheu announced last January he was resigning his post.

By the spring center officials had laid off numerous staff members and disclosed they had an operating deficit of more than \$640,000. The center also revealed it was carrying \$2.3 million in debt due to construction costs.

On June 23 Lynch, who left Project Open Hand to take on the \$105,000 a year position, started work. Ever since he has been receiving praises.

"I think it's a sea change. When I go around and talk to people and listen to people about the center, people have very positive attitudes as to what is happening with the organization," said Wiener. "They sense there is a real positive energy about the organization and people have a general sense that the organization is turning around and heading in the right direction. Thom gets a lot of credit for that," said Wiener.

"I think Thom has brought a lot of energy, managerial skills, and focus to the challenges that the center faces," added state Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), who led the initial fundraising drive to build the center. "Every time I am there it is being used and I am always encouraged so many people from so many corners of our community clearly feel comfortable and at home there."

## Turnaround

City Hall has also taken notice of Lynch's leadership and is investing once again in the center. This week the Mayor's Office of Community Development finalized a grant agreement with the center to open a neighborhood economic development organization.

Roger Sanders, the openly gay director of the MOCD, said Lynch was a great hire by the board. Sanders' office originally oversaw the \$6 million in city funding the center received and will work closely with the person the center hires to run the NEDO.

"Thom Lynch is a great asset. He is going to change the vision and change the type of people who are going to come into the center," said Sanders. "The Mayor's Office of Community Development is very interested in services that are focused on especially the low- and moderate-income lavender households. Small businesses provide jobs for low- and moderate-income lavender households."

Sanders said he believes the NEDO at the center is the nation's first to focus specifically on LGBT people. The office will help queer entrepreneurs establish new businesses within the city.

"As far as I know this is the first program of its kind in the United States. We are actually acknowledging gay entrepreneurs," he said. "We hope that this NEDO will evolve into a strong supportive organization that provides analysis on what our community's needs really are, whether it is access to mortgages or business loans or whatever."

Sanders said he is also glad to see Lynch is moving the center beyond being just a rental facility

and into an incubator for new programs aimed at the queer community.

"Our community needs programs and I think he has the right vision at this time," he said.

Lynch said once the center has the money to launch the NEDO, a search committee will be set up to look for a director. The center has already begun working on the NEDO and David Bach, who owns a job referral service in the Castro, has been volunteering his services at the center.

Bach heads a steering committee that is organizing a job fair at the center on January 30 and 31. It will focus on financial services and banking jobs. The committee hopes to have job fairs focused on different sectors of the market every other month at the center.

Also in January the center is expected to name a new volunteer coordinator. The board made an offer for the paid position to its pick for the job this month. Lynch said he hopes the person will be able to begin work January 1.

"I want to see eventually a lot of people who want to volunteer at the center at the front desk answering phones, working with the public," he said. "I want them to work with groups renting large spaces here so there will be a host for each of those groups. We already had some success in increasing the cyber center hours due to more volunteers."

Along with offering their time, Lynch and the center's boosters hope the community will open their pocketbooks for the organization. For all the successes, the center's future will be dependent on whether it can convince people to donate money.

"Until community members and those who use the center step up to the plate and become dues paying members, the future of the center is going to be uncertain," said Leno. "I think it's a maturation process for the community to recognize we have to be self-reliant. We can't expect anyone else, government or private interests, to carry our weight."

"If we want our center to survive, we have to make it survive. That means whether one can afford \$10 a day or \$10 a year, we all should be contributing something to it," added Leno. "It is a precious treasure. We can't let it slip through our fingers."

The center is already having some success with its special fundraiser show of Disney's *The Lion King*, which opens in February. Tickets are selling well and only 700 remain. The Shorestein Company is already negotiating another fundraiser for a show which opens in March, but Lynch said he could not disclose which show yet.

Next month, Lynch will hold a town hall meeting to discuss the status of the center. At that time, he said he hopes to announce an update on the center's financial situation. He also is meeting with the center's bank and hopes to refinance the remaining debt. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, January 29 at the center, 1800 Market Street. ▼

For more information on the center, or to make a donation, visit [www.sfccenter.org](http://www.sfccenter.org).

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## LEGAL NOTICES

## SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Free or low-cost health care, (800) 300-9950. If you or someone you know needs immunizations, check-ups, dental care, birth control, pregnancy testing, or prenatal care, call us. We are here to help women, teens, and children find free or low-cost health care. The San Francisco Department of Public Health provides referrals to clinics, doctors, and dentists in San Francisco. Our English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin speaking staff are here to take your call, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Program provides nutrition education, food vouchers, and breastfeeding support for pregnant women, postpartum women, infants, and children younger than five. Vouchers are picked up at a WIC site on a monthly/bimonthly basis and may be exchanged for milk, cheese, eggs, cereal, juice, peanut butter/beans, and infant formulas in most grocery stores. All WIC services are free of charge. For more information, please call (415) 573-5788.

## SAN FRANCISCO ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL LOST PET HOTLINE

Tell everyone you know about the SFACC lost and found Hotline! Dial -415/lost pet - on your touch-tone phone and hear a list of animals brought to our animal shelter that day. We also provide complete information on how to look for your lost pet. Don't forget, that's 415/lost-pet, or 415/567-8738.

## MAYOR'S OFFICE OF HOUSING

The Mayor's Office of Housing offers FREE services including funding up to \$10,000.00 to clean up lead-based paint hazards from the residences of low to moderate-income households. This program will be available only for a short time. For more information on the Lead Hazard Reduction Program, call Ted Tulle at: (415) 252-3102.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW) GRAFFITI PROGRAM

The (DPW) Graffiti Abatement Program works daily to eradicate graffiti citywide. The fifteen (15) member graffiti crew is equipped with four (4) vans with the latest in computer aided color matching systems, two (2) pick-up trucks, paint, brushes and other graffiti removal supplies. For graffiti that appears on stone or marble, the crew also has a soda-blasting machine that sprays high pressure steam and baking soda to remove graffiti from these difficult surfaces.

Last year, the DPW crew wiped out about 1,750,000 square feet of graffiti and used over 4,375 gallons of paint!

As a citizen you can help! Please report graffiti on your private property, a Release Form is needed. To obtain one, please leave your name, and address or fax number and a form will be sent to you. As a Department policy, we will remove the graffiti from a private building once as a way of training and educating you on graffiti abatement. Thereafter, we will leave the paint with you for you to use in the future should the graffiti happens to return. Thank you for your assistance!

City and County of San Francisco  
Department of Human Services  
Request for Proposals # 259

**Dear Potential Applicant:**  
The San Francisco Department of Human Services announces its intent to seek proposals from agencies and organizations interested in contracting to provide family preservation services for families with children at risk of removal by Family & Children Services. The contractor will provide intensive in-home services to work with parents and families referred to the program by Family & Children Services. This is one of three family preservation contracts maintained by the Department. One of the other two family preservation contracts works with the Asian/Pacific Islander families and one focuses on families with substance-abuse exposed infants. The contract period will run from 7/1/04 to 6/30/07 for an amount to be determined. An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDSHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, Tuesday, January 6, 2004. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.

The RFP packet and subsequent updates may be downloaded from the City's website on or after Tuesday, January 6, 2004. Go to [HTTP/SUNSETCLSFCA.US/PRBDNS.NSF](http://HTTP/SUNSETCLSFCA.US/PRBDNS.NSF) and click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link.

The Respondent's Conference will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2004, at 9:30 AM at 1650 Mission St., Suite 300, SF, CA. For further information, call Kimberly Ferguson, at (415) 557-5585. Due date for responses is Friday, February 6, 2004 at 5:00 PM.

12/2/03  
CNS: 61780#  
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## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC 03-541083

In the Matter of the Application of Brian Lee Mavrogeorge for Change of Name. The application of Brian Lee Mavrogeorge for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Brian Lee Mavrogeorge has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Brian Lee Bonner. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 10th day of February, 2004 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 11,18,25, JAN 1,2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC 03-541087

In the Matter of the Application of Brian Lee Mavrogeorge for Change of Name. The application of Brian Lee Mavrogeorge for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Brian Lee Mavrogeorge has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Brian Lee Bonner. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 10th day of February, 2004 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 11,18,25, JAN 1,2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC 03-541081

In the Matter of the Application of Douglas Taylor Rothstein for Change of Name. The application of Douglas Taylor Rothstein for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Douglas Taylor Rothstein has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Douglas Taylor Kasle. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 29th day of January, 2004 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 11,18,25, JAN 1,2003

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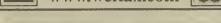
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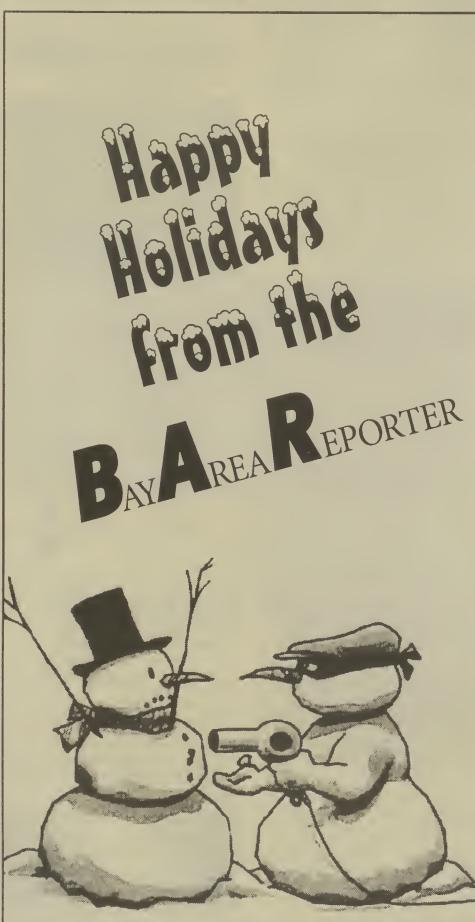
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## CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL NOTICES

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541025

In the Matter of the Application of Shannon Minter for Change of Name and Change of Gender. The application of Shannon Minter for change of name and gender, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Shannon Minter has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Shannon Price "Minter and his/her gender changed from female to male. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 13th day of January, 2004 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 11, 18, 25, JAN 1, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE A-0271814-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: J.Wavro Associates 1847 Lombard Street, San Francisco, CA 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed James Wavro. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/01/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/02/03.

DEC. 11, 18, 25, JAN 1, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE A-0271360-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sunset Psychic 1417 9th Avenue San Francisco, CA 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Rose Johnson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8/08/93. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/12/03.

DEC. 11, 18, 25, JAN 1, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0271802-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Debra Domo Hotel 106 Fern Court, San Francisco, CA 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Tsegai Berhe. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/02/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/02/03.

DEC. 25, JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2003

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE 243248

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Debra Domo Hotel 106 Fern Court, San Francisco, CA 94109. This business was conducted by an individual, signed Tsegai Berhe. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/02/03.

DEC. 25, JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541009

In the Matter of the Application of David Allan Wentworth for Change of Name. The application of David Allan Wentworth for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that David Allan Wentworth has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to David Wentworth Schuh. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of February at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 25, JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-540939

In the Matter of the Application of Xavier Lartigue for Change of Name. The application of Xavier Lartigue for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Xavier Lartigue has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Latif Kam Ra Eze. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of February at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 25, JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE A-0271345-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Rip Tide, 3639 Taraval Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. This business is general partnership signed David Quinby.

The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/10/2003.

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541068

In the Matter of the Application of Frederick William Hock for Change of Name. The application of Frederick William Hock for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Frederick William Hock has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Andrea Ashley Chenie. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 27th day of January at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 25, JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-540960

In the Matter of the Application of Sonya Sherrard for Change of Name. The application of Sonya Sherrard for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sonya Sherrard has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Ducha Malika Jali. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of February at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 25, JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE A-0271760-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Westwood, 236 West Portal #334 San Francisco, CA 94127. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Mark Ballisteri. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/02/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/02/03.

DEC. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE A-0271667-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Linda Jewelry, 1201 of Farrel Street San Francisco, CA 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Demin Li. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/24/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/24/2003.

DEC. 11, 18, 25 JAN 01, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE A-0271739-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Universal Biologics, Global, Inc., 2 J Line, Inc., 1006 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Kathie Wong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/26/2003.

DEC. 11, 18, 25 JAN 01, 2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CASE #540720

In the Matter of the Application of Yisrael Ben Avraham for Change of Gender. The application of Yisrael Ben Avraham for change of gender from female to male, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Yisrael Ben Avraham has filed an application proposing that his/her gender be changed from female to male. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 20th day of January, 2004, at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for gender change (female to male) should not be granted.

DEC. 11, 18, 25, JAN 1, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE A-0271345-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Rip Tide, 3639 Taraval Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. This business is general partnership signed David Quinby. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/10/2003.

DEC. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE A-0271696-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mike's Urban Garden, 375 Guerrero Street Apt. 2, San Francisco, CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Michael B. Collins. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/25/2003.

DEC. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2003

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is Martinez Benjamin The Applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, CA 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at 10 Mason Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. Type of License applied for: 41-ON-SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE DEC. 11, 18, 25, 2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, 400 MCALLISTER, SF, CA 94102, AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE #CPF-03-50352

HEATH STOYER, Petitioner, v. WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, a California limited liability company, and SEAN WALL, an individual, Respondents. TO WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY and SEAN WALL: YOU ARE ORDERED to appear in Department 302 of this court, located at 400 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA on January 13th, 2004, at 9:30 am, there and there to show cause why the petition of HEATH STOYER for dissolution of WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, and designation of HEATH STOYER as the member to wind up the affairs of the LLC should not be granted.

This order together with a copy of the petition on file herein and any declarations filed in support of the petition shall be served on SEAN WALL in the same manner as service of summons at least 30 days prior to the date of hearing or as otherwise specified in an order allowing publication pursuant to CCP 415.50. You are notified that a petition has been filed by HEATH STOYER seeking dissolution of WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD LLC and designation of HEATH STOYER as the member to wind up the affairs of the LLC. If said petition is granted, assets of the LLC will be sold and proceeds of sale applied in a manner according to law and as approved by the court. You must appear at the hearing on the date and at the time specified if you object to this petition. Dated November 4, 2003, Ronald Evans Quidachay, Judge of the Superior Court. DEC. 25, JAN. 1, 2004

## STATEMENT FILE A-0272200-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: All Fours 303 Scott Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lloyd Campbell Wilson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8/31/95. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/19/2003.

DEC. 25, JAN. 1, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE A-0272181-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: EX.JAY, 464 Natomia #20 Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jeffrey P. Mainville. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/10/97. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/18/2003.

DEC. 25, JAN. 1, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE A-0272181-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: X.Y.Z. 1000 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jeffrey P. Mainville. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/10/97. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/18/2003.

DEC. 25, JAN. 1, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE A-0271739-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Universal Biologics, Global, Inc., 2 J Line, Inc., 1006 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Kathie Wong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/26/2003.

DEC. 11, 18, 25 JAN 01, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE A-0271345-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Rip Tide, 3639 Taraval Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. This business is general partnership signed David Quinby. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/10/2003.

DEC. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE A-0271696-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mike's Urban Garden, 375 Guerrero Street Apt. 2, San Francisco, CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Michael B. Collins. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/25/2003.

DEC. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2003

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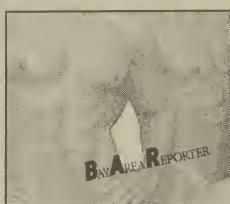
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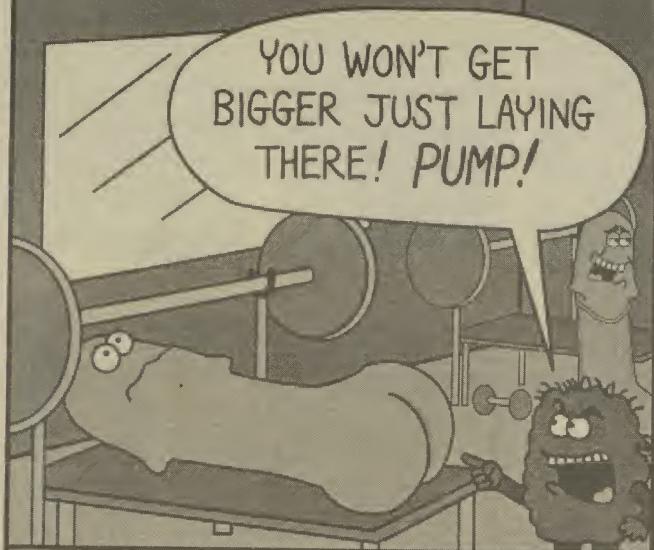
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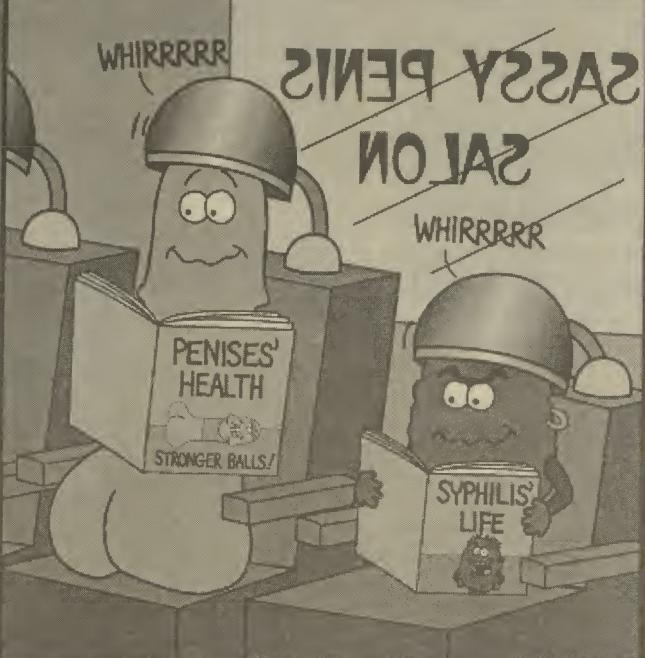
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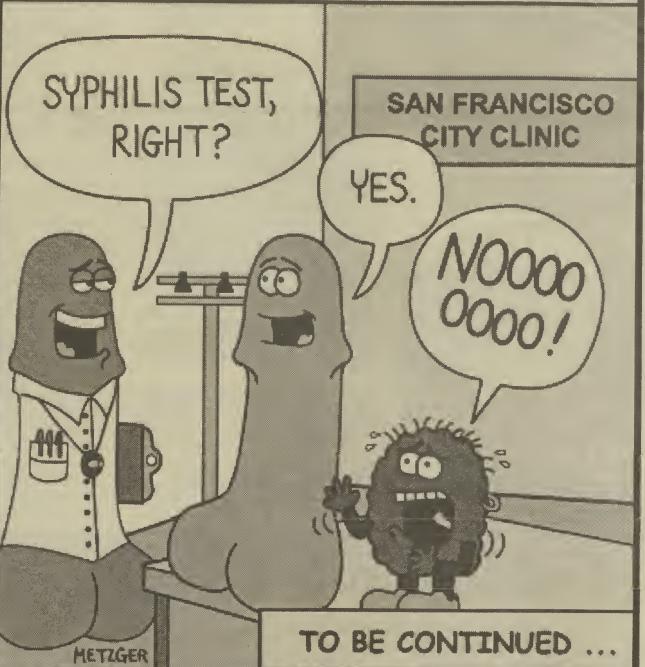
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**The best of the year in the arts**  
Our critics review classical music, dance,  
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pages 29, 30, 32, 33

**Sweet Lips remembers**  
Being roommates with  
Bob Ross back in the day.

page 35



**Hunnam's a hummer**  
From Brit 'Queer as Folk'  
to part in 'Cold Mountain.'

page 30



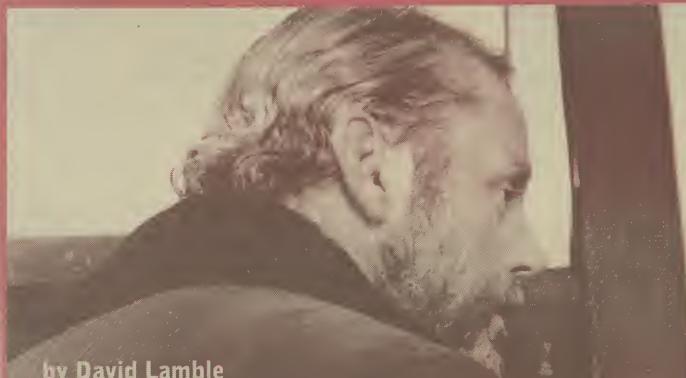
# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 52 • 25 December 2003

## CATCHING THE NEW GAY WAVE

CHOICES FOR TOP 10 QUEER FILMS OF 2003



Football coach Gid (David Morse, left) pushes player Roy (Ryan Gosling) to the wall in *The Slaughter Rule*.



by David Lamble

This year's list of the 10 best queer films of the year takes into account the increasing impact of cable TV as the source of more queer films. Sadly, lesbian films were not much in evidence this year, at least at the highest levels.

**Capturing the Friedmans** Andrew Jarecki's first film is perhaps the most devastating documentary portrait of an American family's implosion since Terry Zwigoff's *Crumb*. Although his cameras may document a miscarriage of justice involving the McMartin pedophile case, his real goal is a *Rashomon*-like examination of the nature of truth in everyday life.

With present-tense interviews and one of the most extraordinary collections of home movies ever amassed by a middle-class family, *Friedmans* does what great novels have always done: give us characters we care about, put them in terrible peril, and, whether we believe them or not, allow their fate to pose the big questions about what it was like to be alive in their skin. Queer filmgoers will recognize some of this family's dirty laundry: rumors of sex between siblings; hints of a kind of male Lolita syndrome; and a cold, controlling mother straight out of a Philip Roth novel.

**Angels in America** It's just over a decade since Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning play debuted in San Francisco and revolutionized gay theatre by totally

page 30 ►

## SALTY SURVIVORS & SEXUAL OBSESSION

THEATER STAND-OUTS IN A TUMULTUOUS YEAR



Elaine Stritch was at liberty at the Curran.

**Y**ou might call 2003 a year full of piss and vinegar. The country went to war, the state booted its governor, and San Francisco had *Urinetown* and Elaine Stritch on its stages.

As I flipped through the pages of a year of past issues, firing up memories, I was stirred all over again by dozens of recalled productions. The following collection is only a skitter across the surface of what made 2003 memorable for one theatergoer.

### Road work

*Urinetown* was a big hit for American Conservatory Theater, which came up with some of the dough to launch the national tour at the Geary Theater. It was a risk that paid off for the theater and for audiences.

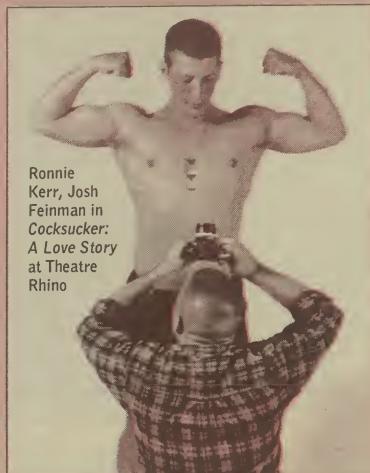
*Elaine Stritch At Liberty*, with the salty survivor recreating her Broadway hit, was another welcome touring attraction. SF was the tryout town for *Wicked*, and it was fun to be at the front end of a new and unusual musical that, despite mixed reviews here and in New York, has turned into a Broadway hit.

*The Producers* enjoyed a profitable run here, of course not living up to its name.

page 32 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Richard Dodds



Ronnie Kerr, Josh Feinman in *Cocksucker: A Love Story* at Theatre Rhino

DAVID WILSON

# 'I munched Roy's naughty bits!'

Rare white tiger who bit the beef tells all

by Roberto Friedman

**T**wo-thousand and three was the kind of year where, even if you weren't pounced upon and chewed up into red mincemeat by a rare white tiger, live onstage in Las Vegas in front of a horrified audience, it still sometimes felt as if you were. Until now, however, the ferocious feline sex machine who did the dirty deed has never gone public, on the record, about that day of horror. But at last, and for the first time ever in the tabloid media, the tony Tiger Terror speaks to the Bay Area Reporter.

"I love Roy, he's been like a father to me," confessed **Montacore**, a Royal White tiger, from his pacing pen at **Siegfried & Roy's** magisterial estate outside Las Vegas, where he has been sequestered while their show has been on hiatus. "He's been training me since I was just the tiniest cub. I suckled at his nipple."

"I can't tell you what came over me," said Monty, licking a paw clean of lunch. "We were going through all the usual tricks, just another ball to balance, just another hoop to jump through. You know, doin' the ol' two-a-day. Suddenly, Roy presented his plump, juicy nape to me — and I don't know, I just reverted to my basic animal nature! What can I say, it's a tiger thing!"

The sleek, powerful beast paused to gnaw soulfully on some bone marrow. "I can tell you this, I never meant to put him in mor-



Royal White tiger Montacore, bottom left, comes clean.

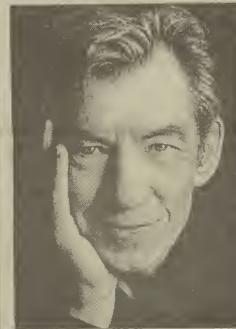
tal danger. Maybe just maul him a little bit, but with love. I'm serious, man, I love Vegas, I love performing, and it makes me just wild to think that I've put everybody through this!

"Still, tomorrow's another day, right?" His imperial blue eyes flashed with optimism and the power of positive thinking. "And of course, there's still Siegfried!"

Words of wisdom gleaned from the official *Siegfried & Roy 2004 calendar*: "Animals are reliable, full of love, true in their affections, predictable in their actions, grateful and loyal." Um, right.

#### Sign language

Gay acting legend and citizen of Middle Earth **Sir Ian McKellen** continues to speak out,



Sir Ian edits the Bible.

and make the society pages. In the *NY Times* "A Night Out with" column last week, Sir McKellen de-

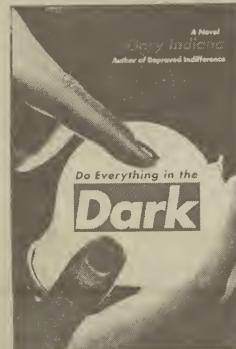
scribed an autograph hound's reaction to his refusal to grant him a scribble. "He growled, 'You'd sign it if it had a penis on it.' I wasn't clever enough to say, 'You're absolutely right!'"

McKellen also disclosed a meaningful personal ritual he performs regularly in hotel rooms: ripping the stupid anti-gay passage *Leviticus 18:22* from the Gideon Bible. Hey, we really could get behind that kind of direct action, and it's a locale we like.

#### Good reads

When **Out There** reads for pleasure, we enjoy a writerly voice which well handles the comic impulse while not unrecognizable of the darker tones of life. Why can't we just leave it at the office?

So our three favorite comic novels of the year were:



*Do Everything in the Dark* by **Gary Indiana** (St. Martin's Press) Disconnected cultural elites wander the world and the streets of Manhattan in downward spirals through addictions and doomed love affairs. The narrative ends on Sept. 10, 2001. (Released in paperback this year: Indiana's 2001 novel *Depraved Indifference*, a picaresque tale of utterly amoral grifters at work in contemporary America, in a vision both hilarious and frightening.)

*Lives of the Circus Animals* by **Christopher Bram** (William Morrow) Interlinked circles of the NYC theatre world set up as romantic comedy, cast of characters including honored gay British thespian (**Guess Who**); *NY Times* critic; once-successful playwright; and his ex, a young "hottie" actor who kickstarts the action. From the author of *Father of Frankenstein*, the basis of *Gods & Monsters*.

*Lust* by **Geoff Ryman** (St. Martin's Press), in which a research scientist doing heartless experiments on the brains of baby chicks apparently becomes a guinea pig himself, in a superior being's brain experiment. He has the power to call up flesh-and-blood incarnations of his desires, and thus has a chance to really explore his sexual psyche. Smart fun.

#### Bad mix

Here's a good way to think of things dept.: In his final Los Angeles dispatch for the *UK Guardian*, correspondent **Duncan Campbell** quotes from the novel *Grand Days* by **Frank Moorhouse**. "Of his character Edith Campbell Berry, Moorhouse wrote: 'She worried about mixing

with journalists. They were so often damaged by their way of life, maybe by living so close to world anxiety and then having to make the anxiety into sense, knowing that they had always got something wrong, yet never knowing until the next day what it was they'd got wrong.'" If only life had a corrections box.

#### Good tunes

Out pop star **Rufus Wainwright** demonstrated to the adoring crowd at the Warfield last Friday night, where he wrapped up his *Want One* tour, that

he may have weathered a difficult recovery for speed addiction, but he hasn't lost that aesthete style. He wore a leather coat and some fabulous '70s striped pants that really showed off his butt, which he presented for our inspection. He called his look "Elvis from the waist up, Liberace from the waist down."



Rufus is a fashion-plate.

To these ears, his new album is a giant step forward, mostly dispensing with the fussy arrangements and clanging chords of his first two. "Men reading fashion magazines," Rufus sang, "oh what a world we live in! Straight men!" Strikes us as a profound reflection, even if the song owes a lot to *Gershwin* and *Bolero* ("I had to call up the *Ravel* family!") he chirped mid-song.)

*Want One* (DreamWorks) was seldom off our disc-player this fall, joined there by such superior pop as **Missy Elliott's** *This Is Not a Test!* (Elektra). "Fuck a tummy tuck!" shouts out Missy E, righteous as ever. "Let me fix my weave!"

But we're also high-brow: we loved the *San Francisco Symphony*'s live concert recording of **Gustav Mahler's** Symphony No. 3 and *Kindertotenlieder*, which is up for a Grammy Award as Best Classical Album (with Music Director **Michael Tilson Thomas**). It's the third release in the SFS' ongoing Mahler symphony recording cycle for its own label. Root for it at the 46th annual Grammy Awards, coming up on February 8, 2004.

The two-disc recording features Mahler's Third, with mezzo-soprano **Michelle DeYoung**, the women of the *San Francisco Symphony Chorus*, *San Francisco Girls Chorus* and *Pacific Boychoir*. The song cycle *Kindertotenlieder* also features DeYoung. Released in March, the disc quickly

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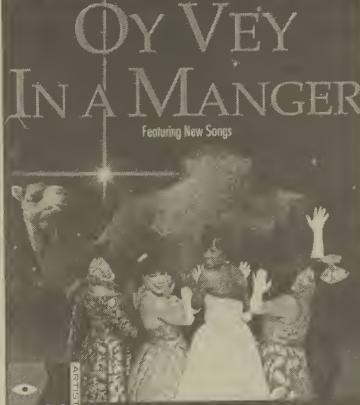


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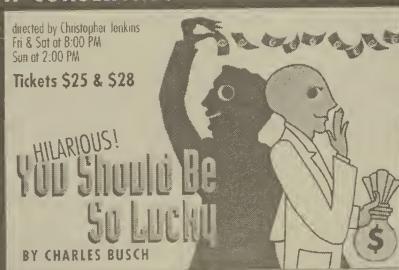
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## FILM

Charlie Chaplin as the Tramp, Paulette Goddard as the Gamine in *Modern Times*, playing the Castro Theatre.

## Modern girl

### The film career of Paulette Goddard

by Tavo Amador

**P**aulette Goddard (1911-90) came within a false eyelash of playing Scarlett O'Hara, and if she didn't land the most coveted role in Hollywood history, she did all right. Her vivacity and beauty enlivened many otherwise forgettable movies, and she amassed a legendary jewelry collection. One of her best films, *Modern Times* ('36), plays the Castro Theatre December 25-31.

Born Marion Levy in Long Island, she was a Ziegfeld Girl at 14, married and divorced a lumber tycoon, then arrived in Tinseltown with mother and a half-million-dollar alimony settlement. As a blonde, she had bit parts in Hal Roach comedies and a brief stint as a Goldwyn Girl, before meeting Charlie Chaplin at a party. In 1932, they secretly wed, and she reverted to her naturally dark hair. Chaplin cast her in his *Modern Times*, and she was delightful, earning great reviews. After testing and rejecting her for *Gone With the Wind*, David Selznick signed her, then asked her to be *Young at Heart* and sent her to MGM's *Dramatic School* ('38). She stayed there for Miriam in *The Women* ('39), catty and memorably slugging Rosalind Russell, but Selznick sold her contract to Paramount.

At that studio, she starred with Bob Hope in *The Cat and the Canary*, faced *The Ghost Breakers*, was an unlikely gypsy-in *North West Mounted Police*, danced (briefly) with Fred Astaire in *Second Chorus*, before Chaplin's *The Great Dictator* ('40). They divorced in '42 — his son would later write glowingly about her. In '41, she and James Stewart found a *Pot o' Gold*, and she did well opposite Olivia de Havilland and Charles Boyer in the excellent *Hold Back the Dawn*, about refugees seeking asylum in America. She earned a Best Supporting Oscar nomination and joined Dorothy Lamour and Veronica Lake as the studio's top World War II pin-ups. She told Hope *Nothing but the Truth* ('41), a smash; and she showed Ray Milland that *The Lady Has Plans*, a poor comedy. For DeMille she would *Reap the Wild Wind* with Milland, John

Wayne, and Susan Hayward, an epic about 19th-century cargo ships that made a mint. She and a butch Hayward vied for Fred MacMurray in *The Forest Rangers* ('42), before she sang and danced with Lamour and Lake in *Star Spangled Rhythm*. She gazed at the dull *Crystal Ball*, then became a combat nurse with Claudette Colbert and Lake in *So Proudly We Hail* ('43), a big hit considerably enlivened by her vivacity. ▼

#### Ups and downs

She was a gorgeous *Kitty*, modeling for Gainsborough and rising to the top of London society, another success. Jean Renoir had her write the *Diary of a Chambermaid* ('46), her best part. *Suddenly It's Spring* was a bad comedy with MacMurray, and for DeMille she was *Unconquered* as a slave girl in America saved from harm by Gary Cooper. (If only he had done the same for the film's audiences.) She was a lively and intelligent Mrs. Chevely in Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*, but it flopped. She encountered a *Hazard*, and with third husband Burgess Meredith went *On Our Merry Way* ('48), before essaying Lucrezia Borgia bent on *Vengeance* ('49). All were box-office duds, but Paramount resigned her for seven years and five pictures, eventually paying her not to make them and allowing her to freelance. Her career sank with an all-white *Anna Lucasta* and *The Torch* ('50); hit nadir with *Babes in Bagdad* ('52); didn't recover opposite Edward G. Robinson in *Vice Squad*, as a *Paris Model*, or atoning for *The Sins of Jezebel* ('53); and effectively ended with *The Charge of the Bengal Lancers* and *The Stranger Came Home* ('54). She divorced Meredith, and in '58 married novelist Erich Maria Remarque (*All Quiet on the Western Front*). In '64, she and Rod Steiger filmed *Gli Indifferenti*, based on a Moravia novel, which few saw; and for television, she played a murdered movie star on *The Snoop Sisters* ('72). In '71, she posed for one of Blackglama Mink's celebrated "What Becomes a Legend Must" ads.

Goddard offered practical advice to women hoping to collect jewelry from suitors: return, with an appreciative note, all scarves,

perfumes, candy, lingerie, even furs, sent by an admirer. Return the first pieces of jewelry as well (they're seldom worth keeping), but do so graciously. Eventually, if he's really interested, he'll send something noteworthy. That she should accept, being sure to thank him properly. She was a very modern girl. ▼

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## PEOPLE FARM

BY STEVE SUSOYEV

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# Render unto Caesar what is due Caesar

*Just in time, a new and brilliant 'Giulio Cesare' out on CD*

by Tim Pfaff

It says something, though one hardly knows what, about the state of the recording industry that this Christmas season offers no new recording of Handel's *Messiah* (an Easter oratorio, but never mind). Handel lovers will be just as glad to get DG's brilliant new live recording of *Giulio Cesare*, the composer's most famous

opera. Until this set appeared, it wasn't clear that another *Cesare* was any more necessary than yet another *Messiah*. But this is the one most committed Handelians have been waiting for, if without knowing it.

The piece, even in these days of Handel galore the most performed and recorded of his operas, is unmistakably one of the greatest of the lot. Still, its unqualified supremacy can only be

cause of its title, and the resulting familiarity of its characters and (even in Nicola Haym's libretto, which plays fast and loose with history, Shakespeare and general credibility) plot. It's otherwise one of the longest and most demanding of the more than 40 Handel operas, calling for extravagant orchestral and vocal resources.

This Vienna performance of a traveling concert version dispenses with the spectacle but not with the drama, and it's the first to capitalize on the prodigal instrumentation without going over the top with the musical execution. Conductor Marc Minkowski uses his smallish but feisty squad of original instrumentalists, *Les Musiciens du Louvre*; and, mixed closely, they pack their usual punch. The set confirms that the two greatest Handelians of the day are Minkowski for the operas and Paul McCreesh for the oratorios.

The playing is as characterful as the singing everywhere, but it's in the small, normally inconspicuous passages that it can deliver some of its biggest surprises. Until this recording, only Handel scholars would have paid much attention to the short accompanied recitative for four characters late in Act I, "Sire, con Sesto il figlio questo è Cornelia." This go-around, the pungent, contortionist instrumental playing is as commanding as the knotty moment in the verbal drama.

But I delay. The real find in this *Cesare* is its Caesar, Marijana Mijanovic, an early-music mezzo previously unknown to me. I'm blessedly free of opinions about



whether Caesar should be sung by a countertenor or a mezzo. Mijanovic is like the best of both worlds. There's the vocal ease and rich evenness of emission only a big female voice can provide (now that the real castrators are gone), combined with a sound so fundamentally low it sounds more male than female.

But beyond the distinctive sound lies a world of consummate musicianship and, better, a keen feeling for text and dramatic line. There's spectacular singing throughout from her, but, again, it's in one of the less prominent ones, "Se in florito ameno prato," in which Caesar hymns a songbird (evoked in a brilliant violin obbligato by Florian Deuter), that her singing is at its most startlingly imaginative. She nails the low last note fearlessly.

#### Queen of da Nile

As startling, Minkowski gives the part of Cleopatra, normally reserved for coloratura sopranos of the hanging-from-their-eyebrows school, to Magdalena Kozená, who's thus far been billed as a mezzo and something of a low-slung one at that. With no ap-

parent transpositions, she throws herself into the killer part with brio, fire, effortless roulades of high notes and, best of all, rich resources of vocal characterization. The Caesar-Cleopatra scene at the center of Act II is the sizzler it's meant to be, and Cleopatra's stunned, desolate, desperate "Se pietà" after Caesar leaves is the molten core of the opera it must be. The low plumbline of her voice gives it gravitas, the blanched pianissimos its pathos.

The rest of the singing is nearly at this exulted level. Bejun Mehta's virile countertenor gives Tolomeo some depth often left unexplored in this devilish character. Anna Sofja von Otter, who has been in one of those late-career trouble spots, rallies to the prevailing company standards with an ardent, steady Sesto. Among the principals, only Charlotte Hellekann's fussy, matronly Cornelia is a let-down, tarnishing in particular that sublime duet with Sesto that closes the first act.

Still, the real juice of *Giulio Cesare* is in its powerhouse last act, and this already potent performance attacks it as though it had been lying in wait all along. Cleopatra's "Piangerò la sorte mia" has the requisite limpidity; but also, in its B section, a refiner's fire; and, in the repeat of the A, a wondrous free reworking of the familiar melody that gives it an almost unbearable desolation. Caesar's ensuing accompanied recitative and aria match it in artistic imagination and depth of feeling. Thereafter, it's nothing but astonishments. ▼

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## Recordings for the holidays

### Yuletide tunes out on CDs, part 2

by Jason Serinus

**A** Cappella II Saint Thomas Choir of Boys & Men (Koch) Keeper of the Anglican musical tradition in the United States, this exceptional choir consists of 12 professional adult singers and 16-20 boys. The boys, blessed with beautiful voices, attend Saint Thomas Choir School, the only church-related residential choir school in the United States, situated one block from Carnegie Hall.

At times accompanied by the wondrous sounds of Saint Thomas Church's organs, the choir's selection of 19th- and 20th-century hymns proves consistently engaging. This is the quality of singing and program that every church and community choir will wish to emulate.

**Evergreen** The Time-Life Treasury of Christmas (Time-Life) Opening with a tune immortalized by Nat King Cole, Mel Tormé's "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire," this collection entrusts popular Christmas songs and carols to pop and soul performers. Celine Dion may fail to brown her chestnuts, but Mariah Carey sets them afame by singing the multi-octaved pants off "O Holy Night." You may wish to send Mannheim Steamroller "Away in the Manger," but when Vanessa Williams and Bobby Caldwell sing "Baby, It's Cold

Outside," you'll welcome them in. Kenny Loggins, Luther Vandross, Cyndi Lauper, Neil Diamond, Gloria Estefan and others make this disc irresistible.

**Deck the Halls and Joy to the World** Valarie Alexandra Valois (Eroica) Her teacher and mentor, the legendary pianist Michelangeli, called her "an eagle among pigeons." Cellist Mstislav Rostropovich proclaimed, "In a class by herself." Though arrangements of holiday favorites are not the best way to sample a pianist's artistry, the results are unquestionably lovely. Valois' sweet takes on everything from "I Wonder as I Wander" to "The Coventry Carol" are sensitively and lovingly performed.

**Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf; Beintus: Wolf Tracks** Mikhail Gorbachev, Sophia Loren, Bill Clinton, Russian National Orchestra, Kent Nagano, cond. (Pentatone Classics) Though eye brows surely raise upon learning that former President Bill Clinton narrates a wolf's tale, cynicism melts upon learning that the disc is an act of charity. Clinton, narrator of Jean-Pascal Beintus' newly commissioned *Wolf Tracks*, donates his royalties to the International AIDS Trust. Loren, narrator of the beloved Prokofiev, gives her money to Magic of Music, an arts therapy program for youth. Gorbachev, who provides short introductions and epilogue, gives his share to the Green Cross Interna-

tional environmental organization. Loren begins rather deadpan, but quickly warms to the task as drama and music intensify. She's a delight. Kent Nagano does a great job with the orchestration.

**Winter Kolednica Seasonal Carols from Slovenia** (Naxos) Slovenia, a country of 2 million, lies in the heart of Europe. With singing their primary form of musical expression, the Slovenes have managed to preserve much of their traditional heritage. Songs, usually written for three or more voices, are in major keys and for the most part sung loudly without changes of dynamics or tempo. This is a rare opportunity to hear authentic performances recorded as early as 1962.

**Palestrina: Music for Advent & Christmas** The Choir of Westminster Cathedral (Hyperion) The gorgeous polyphony of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-94) is considered the epitome of high Renaissance Roman Catholic music. This assortment of Palestrina's music for advent and Christmas is sung by the choir of the 100-year-old Westminster Cathedral. Master of Music Martin Baker's current crop of boy sopranos produces a slightly cloying sound, but the music remains well-served.

**Purcell: Evening Prayer** Chanticleer (Teldec Classics) The Grammy award-winning men's vocal ensemble Chanticleer up-

next page ►

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## MUSIC

# Double Dutch deluxe

## Best of the year in classical music & dance

by Stephanie von Buchau

The best operatic experiences I had in 2003 start with San Francisco Symphony's concert version of Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman*. Michael Tilson Thomas' orchestra was gloriously over the top, and Mark Delavan sang a virile Dutchman any girl (and most guys reading this paper) would sacrifice everything for. I was even able to stomach the inexpressive Jane Eaglen, because she pounded out the last scene with dead-on-pitch high decibels.

I'm sorry for those people who didn't "get" San Francisco Opera's opening night *Mother of Us All*, but I'm not sure why they were so hostile about it. I was abused for a month afterward by correspondents who took exception to everything from the music to the stupidity of performing the work on opening night. That much I'll give them; shoving *Mother* down

the reluctant throats of the well-heeled who pay for the opera season was either arrogant, suicidal or clueless. But I enjoyed the piece, the staging, and Luana DeVol's eponymous Susan B. too much to care about rich-bitch sensibilities.

Other operatic high points included tenor Juan Diego Florez, conductor Patrick Summers and not much else in *La Cenerentola*; Christopher Ventris' biceps and Donald Runnicles' conducting in Shostakovich's searing *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*; and the adorable stuffed kangaroo lugged around by Rosina in Johannes Schaaf's otherwise off-kilter *Barber of Seville* staging.

Great vocal recitals were also in abundance, from Polish contralto Ewa Podles' mesmerizing work for Four Seasons Concerts and Florez's handsome singing in the Cal Performances series, to the best recital I've heard in ages, Karita Mattila's afternoon appear-

ance at Zellerbach Hall. Wearing an unflattering orange dress and removing her shoes for gypsy songs, the Finnish diva had us in the palm of her hand with her generous, passionate singing. Sincerest compliment from a gay friend: "For her, I'd go straight."

In dance, I was blown away by Igor Zelenky as the Golden Slave in the Kirov Ballet's resuscitation of Fokine's *Sheherazade* at UC, while Paul Taylor escaped his recent choreographic doldrums with a kinetic new Bach piece, *Promethean Fire*.

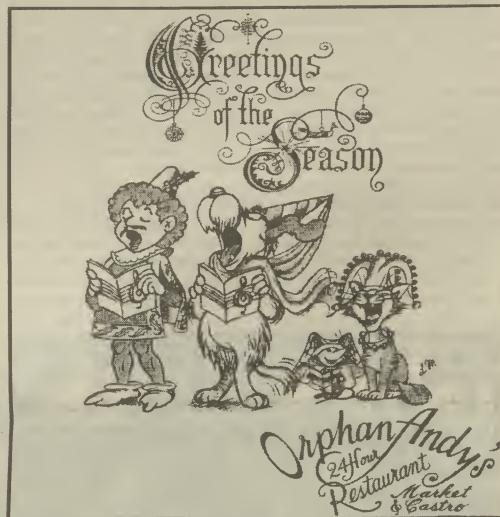
Julia Adam revealed another of her magical stage visions in San Francisco Ballet's *Imaginal Disc*, then segued to Marin Ballet to lead a bunch of kids (and a few pros) in a thoroughly entertaining *Midsummer Night's Dream*, employing Mendelssohn's score.

## Elephant walk

At San Francisco Ballet, the  
page 33 ▶



Courtesy of San Francisco Opera

Soprano Luana DeVol triumphed as Susan B. Anthony in *Mother of Us All*.

# Voices from Valhalla

## Top classical vocals on CD 2003

by Jason Serinus

would be guilty of gross falsification were I to pretend that I am able to audition more than a fraction of the classical releases that arrive weekly *chez Serinus*. I therefore focus on the vocal issues that have led me closest to the gates of heaven these past 12 months.

**Bellini:** *Norma* Montserrat Caballé, Jon Vickers, Théâtre Antiqua D'Orange, 1974 (VAI DVD-Video) Captured in stunning voice, soprano Caballé is in absolute command from her first note. Her "Casta Diva" is exquisite. Alternating between forte phrases devoid of bluster and shimmering pianissimi, she fills the aria with nuance, her final highs spun out to lengths designed to drive devotees to distraction.

Josephine Veasey is nearly Caballé's match as Adalgisa. I personally think Jon Vickers sounds like a cross between a used-car salesman and a bully, but those who appreciate him will enjoy his portrayal of the despicable Roman consul. If the pagan Norma is a barbarian, then George Bush must be the Second Coming. Giuseppe Patanè pro-

vides perfect support. The outdoor setting is thrilling, and the mono sound sufficiently doted to satisfy. Do not miss this!

**Canteloube: Songs of the Auvergne** Karina Gauvin, soprano; Canadian Chamber Ensemble, Raffi Armenian (CBC) Joseph Canteloube's 30 *Chants d'Auvergne* are among the most instantly likable atmospheric creations of 20th-century song. Usually heard with full orchestra, they are here supported by a 16-musician chamber ensemble that fully captures Canteloube's romance with Southern France's Auvergne. Soprano Karina Gauvin delivers gorgeous renditions distinguished by heartfelt singing of the deepest intimacy. Though certainly less "folky"-sounding than the classic 1963 version by soprano Netanya Devrath, Gauvin's authenticity arises from her core. If one could wear out CDs, I'd already be on my second copy.

**Beethoven: Fidelio** Karita Mattila, Ben Heppner et al. Metropolitan Opera and Chorus, James Levine (DG DVD-Video) Recorded in 2000, this performance stunned PBS audiences when broadcast earlier this year. Mattila, easily our finest living Leonore, is vocally and visually stunning. Her gorgeous soprano

creates a virtual catalogue of emotions, her 6-ft. frame surprisingly convincing when suited in male attire. Heppner's Florestan sounds like he's never experienced a vocal crisis, his tone powerful and gleaming. The other principals are equally convincing. Levine's conducting remains a singer's dream.

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## Yuletide CDs

◀ previous page

holds its reputation for excellence. Under the direction of Joseph Jennings, Chanticleer joins Skip Sempé and his Capriccio Stravagante original instrument orchestra for anthems and sacred songs by Henry Purcell. In his short life, Purcell helped forge a musical style quintessentially English, writing stately, formal compositions distinguished by intriguing counterpoint.

**Triodion:** Arvo Pärt, Polyphony Stephen Layton, cond. (*Hyperion*) This haunting disc contains vocal music written by Estonian composer Arvo Pärt.

The eight works' religious nature and spiritual impact reflect the depth of Pärt's Christian faith. Settings of Biblical texts, sermons and hymns, some in English, transport the listener. The singing is superb, the acoustic of London's Temple Church and Christopher Bowers-Broadbent's organ expertly captured.

**J.S. Bach: Christmas Oratorio** Netherlands Bach Society (*Channel Classics*) This performance of Bach's glorious extended Christmas cantata is a labor of love, the chorus exhibiting a slightly naïve sound. John Eliot Gardiner's Monteverdi Choir and major-name soloists offer a sharply delineated performance. ▼

# Getting to know Charlie Hunnam

*British 'Queer as Folk' actor goes to Oscar contender 'Cold Mountain'*

by David Lamble

**G**rowing up a skinny blonde lad on the streets of Newcastle can turn a boy hard. Charlie Hunnam likens his boyhood in the North England city the size of Oakland to coming of age in the American South. The irony of his playing a major supporting role in the Anthony Minghella-directed Civil War drama/romance *Cold Mountain* is not lost on the young British actor, who aspires to join *Cold Mountain* stars Jude Law and Nicole Kidman on Hollywood's A list of bankable actors. Hunnam's Newcastle lies less than 100 miles from the Scottish border, where boys may don skirts; while it's over 300 miles from London, where all the best dreams can seem just out of reach.

At 18, Hunnam's dream was to complete a film studies major and maybe get a job behind the cameras. Life took a radical turn for the better when he was spotted goofing with his mates by a talent scout at a local shoe shop. A gig on the teen show *Byker Grove* soon snagged him the plum part of Nathan Maloney, the 15-year-old schoolboy who brazenly stalks and is then deflowered by the 30-year-old ad executive Stuart on

the debut episode of the original *Queer as Folk*.

Four years later, with a track record in American TV and three major film roles in the can, Hunnam vividly recalls the anxiety attendant to having his actor-cherry popped on such a landmark show. "I was absolutely terrified," he says. "I had an equal part in carrying that show, and had no experience at all. A lot of directors talk about how they can't watch their first films because of all the mistakes. I feel the same way about [British] *Queer as Folk*."

Hunnam adds that his TV baptism under fire was made all the more frightening because he was aware of the opposition of QAF's writer/producer to the casting of an actor as green as he. "They were spending a lot of money on this thing. They shot it like a movie, and they were terrified at the prospects, but the director said, 'No, just trust me. This kid has got something.' And I feel like he was right, I'm developing into a good actor. But certainly then I wasn't."

#### Mad love

Hunnam explains that QAF's incendiary sex scenes between Nathan and Stuart were not nearly as much fun for the actors as they may be for gay audiences, but



Hunnam has a pivotal role as an albino killer in the film *Cold Mountain*.

they were vital for the believability of Nathan's character. "He falls madly in love with this older man. If you saw them go into Stuart's bedroom and then you cut to the next morning, I don't know if you'd want to watch Nathan be obsessed with him for eight hours

of film. Whereas if you see that night and see that Nathan's lost his virginity to this guy, it really allows you to invest in that relationship."

QAF got Charlie Hunnam noticed. Soon came an American agent and choice roles on two

short-lived TV shows, the WB's *Young Americans* and Fox's *Undeclared*. The exposure brought serious filmwork, first as the title character in a remake of Dickens' *Nicholas Nickleby*, then in a hot role as Katie Holmes' boyfriend in the 2002 noir *Abandon*. But the breakthrough part, the role that has him proclaimed by *Contents* magazine "the new face of Hollywood Babylon's youth," is his pivotal, flashy turn as an albino killer in *Cold Mountain*, based on Charles Frazier's National Book Award-winning novel.

Hunnam's character barely exists in the book. When he does pop up, it's part of a ruthless gang of bounty-hunters known as the Home Guard, whose job, as was dragged to a bloody close, was to track down and kill men such as the Confederate Army deserter played by Law. Hunnam says his biggest job was to convince director Minghella to trust him with the role, and to expand its scope once he proved his ability to perform a series of difficult physical stunts, such as backflips off a horse while firing a gun.

He's excited by a new project he's on, the depiction of British soccer hooligans in a film by a young German director that he calls a cross between *Romper Stomper* and *Fight Club*. ▼

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## Queer films '03

◀ Arts cover

transcending the category. Kushner says a spark for *Angels* came from his sympathy for the plight of Roy Cohn, the former aide to Sen. Joseph McCarthy. Cohn was a ruthless right-wing power-broker and a man who died from AIDS in 1986 without coming out of the closet. The Jewish but passionately agnostic Kushner has fashioned his own holy Trinity by crossing Cohn's plight with the fate of a gay man who walks out on his sick lover, and a closeted Mormon man who cheats on his Valium-addicted young wife.

Directed and vividly reimagined for film by Mike Nichols (HBO), with Al Pacino reaching new heights as the dying Roy Cohn, *Angels* is a surreal meditation on the corrosive effects of be-



Charles Busch mounts a tribute to Hollywood weepies in *Die Mommie Die*.

trayal on human relationships, and a spiritual tale for an age where all bets are coming due.

**Die Mommie Die** Charles Busch is Angela Adams, a washed-up singer who hates her movie-mogul husband, her screwed-up children and all her old records. Angela has a secret too hilarious to spoil, but the setup is funny enough. The main angle is a black-comedy version of the murder of Agamemnon by Clytemnestra. Angela is doing in hubby Sol Sussman with a poisoned suppository (Philip Baker Hall wickedly plays Sol as a Stanley Kramer parody). Busch realizes his career-long ambition to mount a tribute to the multihanky weepies whose tortured heroines fueled his teenage imagination. *DMD* continues a recent trend towards sophisticated and muscular forms of drag.

**Yossi & Jagger** On a barren outpost on Israel's contested border with Lebanon, two Israeli soldiers have a roll in the snow. Yossi and Jagger's post-coital chat breaks the rules by posing a future for their relationship, a future without rank or the structure of guard duty.

Eytan Fox, the American-born, Israeli-raised writer/director, has made a kind of sequel to his short film, *Time Off*, in which an Israeli Army officer is seen having a furtive sexual liaison with a young private. Fox shows what the Israeli Army's tolerance for gay soldiers means in practice.

**The Mudge Boy** Michael Burke's debut feature is a low-key coming-of-age drama that sneaks up on us with triple-barreled themes: an exploration of grief; an exquisitely nuanced father/son relationship; and one of the best depictions I've ever seen of the slippery line that many teen friendships teeter along.

**Emile Hirsch** is Duncan Mudge, a socially naive bordering on autistic farmboy who is reeling from the sudden death of his mother. Pristine rural Vermont becomes so vivid that by the time Perry (Thomas Guiry) pushes Duncan off a railroad trestle, you almost feel how cold the water is. The boys' pleasure is offset by the scary moment when Duncan impulsively touches Perry's body, hard-muscled from farmwork. Either Duncan or Perry may or may not

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# Betting the farm: 'House of Sand & Fog'

**Strong performances from Connelly, Kingsley anchor downbeat film**

by Robert Julian

The consequences of a real estate transaction are rarely as devastating as those that descend upon the two potential owners of a Northern California home in *House of Sand and Fog*. Kathy Nicolo (Jennifer Connelly) is a depressed, recovering addict with a pile of mail so tall she can hardly open her front door. Somewhere in that stack of envelopes is a notice that her house is being sold by the county for non-payment of business taxes — taxes she does not owe. Kathy is evicted, and the house is purchased at auction by a struggling Iranian immigrant, Massoud Behrani (Ben Kingsley), as a home for him, his wife, and his teenage son.

When the Behrani family moves in, Kathy shows up on their doorstep (against the advice of her attorney, portrayed by Francis Fisher) to demand they



Sheriff Lester Burdon (Ron Eldard) threatens Massoud Behrani (Ben Kingsley) in *House of Sand and Fog*.

deed the property back to the county for the price Behrani paid. The county will then deed it back to Kathy because the sale resulted from a bureaucratic blunder. But Massoud Behrani needs his po-

tential profit to secure the future of his family. Kathy soon finds an unexpected white knight in the form of Deputy Sheriff Lester Burdon (Ron Eldard). Sheriff Burdon first evicts Kathy, then

leaves his wife to move in with her and help her get back the house. But you know what Shakespeare said about "the best-laid plans."

Director Vadim Perelman adapts Andre Dubus III's best-selling novel with the help of co-writer Shawn Otto, and the film unfolds at a leisurely pace. The moody coastal fog looms over landscape and events, casting a literal and figurative pall over the lives of the protagonists, and foreshadowing a cataclysmic dénouement. Step by step, these desperate characters make one bad decision after another until everything begins to spiral out of

control. In the end, only Kathy will survive with her life and liberty intact, but she will be haunted forever by her memories.

*House of Sand and Fog* will make you squirm uncomfortably in your seat until its final moments. Fortunately for everyone, the circuitous path this story takes cannot be predicted by anyone who has not read the novel. Perelman elicits fine performances from the entire cast, getting Jennifer Connelly to seem ordinary and sufficiently messed up to fall for a loser like Sheriff Burdon. But it is Ben Kingsley who dominates the proceedings, with a finely wrought portrayal of a man who thinks he has lost everything, but discovers he still has more to lose. This performance is so riveting it will not go unnoticed in this annual award season.

Realtors may have some trouble with the story's set-up, because the actual situation proposed has specific and universally recognized remedies that a broker or real estate attorney would easily spot. The path of this plot may hinder a willing suspension of disbelief, but the ensemble of powerhouse performances could bring a skeptical back into the fold. *House of Sand and Fog* is a downbeat film, but a curiously distinguished one that deserves to find an audience. ▼

## Dutch master's piece

**Revealing 'Girl with a Pearl Earring'**

by David Lamble

A new film that arrives as a beautiful day-after-Christmas present pulls back the curtain on the usually cloistered relationship between a painter and his human subject. *Girl with a Pearl Earring* is one of the best behind-the-scenes looks at the art world since Martin Scorsese's *Life Lessons* or Derek Jarman's *Caravaggio*.

He was 28 and starting to make the big bucks, with a pushy patron and a busy household run by women. About 40 of Johannes Vermeer's paintings still exist. Steven Spielberg would be pretty happy if the same could be said of his oeuvre four centuries from now.

"*Girl with a Pearl Earring*" is one of the most erotically charged of all Vermeer's compositions, and Peter Webber's startling new film puts us in the room where the painter (Colin Firth) takes subtle liberties with his model. Griet (Scarlett Johansson), a teenage girl forced to work by a family tragedy, with instincts both pious and sensual, would like to apprentice with the painter without having the situation stain her reputation or annoy her mistress

(Vermeer's wife), the owner of what would become one of the art world's most famous earrings.

Director Webber gets an intense if beautifully restrained performance from Johansson, who, at the tender age of 18, is one of the most remarkable young women to hit the screen since Meryl Streep left Yale. Firth, a British character actor who normally buries himself in his roles, here slyly understates the slippery nature of Vermeer's private passions. Is he the artist as adulterer, or merely a pussy-whipped patriarch?

Webber has as many layers in his perfectly-lensed drama (cinematographer Eduardo Serra shoots every frame like a Dutch master) as Vermeer produced on his canvas. Tom Wilkinson puts just the right amount of lechery into his bawdy portrait of the patron. (Were wealthy art patrons the studio moguls of their day?) In the end, we wonder if *Girl w/Pearl* is an erotically charged argument on the intercourse between art, commerce and the human soul; or merely a sumptuously discreet exercise in high-minded pornography.

As young Griet frets over her role in Vermeer's humiliation of his wife, an old dowager whispers

to her, "Don't be upset. They're just pictures made for money. They mean nothing." ▼

Opens December 26.



Scarlett Johansson and Colin Firth in *Girl with a Pearl Earring*

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**Bay Area stage**

## ◀ Arts cover

ing up to its fame but still providing a very good time. Suzan-Lori Parks' darkly captivating *Topdog/Underdog* wasn't really a touring show, but played here as part of the *Best of Broadway* season, thanks to Carole Shorenstein Hays' connections.

**Solo turns**

When they click, solos shows have a special power over an audience. One of the best of the past year was Sarah Jones' *Surface Transit* at Berkeley Rep, in which the writer-actress put her stamp on the Tomlin-Goldberg school of uncanny characterizations.

Veteran local actor Luis Oropesa scored a theatrical coup at Actors Theatre with *Blood Poet Lora*, his detailed and passionate look at Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca's final hours before his political murder.

Josh Kornbluth took an unlikely theatrical subject, income tax, and turned it into the hilarious and oddly poignant *Love and Taxes* at the Magic Theatre. Kornbluth is now in New York with his SF hit.

David Henry Sterry recalled his days as a professional boytoy for kinky, love-starved women in *Chicken: A 1-Ho Show* at the Marsh. It was funny and sometimes unsettling, especially when recalling a specifically horrible gay experience.

**What's new**

Claire Chafee's *Darwin's Finches*, given a classy world premiere by Encore Theatre at Thick House, is a prickly, insightful look at a family of extremes trying to pull back together in some fashion.

Adam Bock returned to SF with his play *Thursday* (also via Encore), and it was a rewardingly quirky look at the minutiae that can grow into life's stupider stumper.



Jaeson Post was devilishly funny.

David Wilson

bling blocks.

Jaeson Post's *Worse than Chocolate* was an un-PC comedy at Theatre Rhino that was devilishly funny as it explored love in LGBT fashion among the word-processing slaves at a law firm.

Theatre Rhino was also home to Ronnie Larsen's *Cocksucker: A Love Story*, a comedy that went deeper into the exploration of sexual obsession than its title might indicate. John Fisher's *Amnesia*, at Rhino, was a wild comedy-drama about a soldier who forgets he is gay after a blow to the head during WWI.

New Conservatory Theatre Center found success with the world premiere of *Mysterious Skin*, Prince Gomolvilas' sharp adaptation of the Scott Heim novel about sexual abuse.

**Musical interlude**

TheatreWorks staged a first-class production of *Bat Boy – The Musical* in Palo Alto, but the deal to transfer the recent off-Broadway hit to San Francisco fell apart after tickets had gone on sale. TheatreWorks did find a way to bring the expensive *A Little Night Music* to downtown SF, but it failed to thrive.

It was tons of fun at Howard

Crabtree's *When Pigs Fly* at New Conservatory, which offered the local premiere of the zany and warm-hearted musical by the late master of the outrageous costume.

American Musical Theatre of San Jose, often happy with familiar titles, took a chance with the seldom-revived *On the 20th Century*, and gave musical-theater buffs a happy ride in the Rhino Studio.

**Potpourri**

Categories are elusive for the following deserving attractions. Such as Joan Holden's stage version of *Nickel and Dime*, at TheatreWorks and then Brava, that showed how advocacy theater can still be dramatically rewarding.

Marin Theatre Company gave hearty life to the very early Tennessee Williams play *The Fugitive Kind*, while UStickEm Productions made its all-female production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* somehow run down the right track.

Crowded Fire and director Rebecca Novick turned Erik Ehn's opaque play *'Maid'* into an underwater experience for audiences at the Exit.

San Jose Rep created winter on its stage with director Timothy Near's full-bodied production of Charles Mee's *Wintertime*, an operatic comedy about the minefields of love for its straight, lesbian and gay characters.

The Shotgun Players took over a Berkeley park and turned it into the battlefields of *Mother Courage*. Trish Mulholland was terrific as Brecht's title character in Patrick Dooley's politically invigorating production.

Finally, in the hard-to-classify department, there was *Spanked* at New Conservatory. Real-life lovers Aaron Hartzler and Ian MacKinnon took audiences into complicated psychological territories involving daddies, punishment, and fetishes — while turning cheeks red. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at [BARstage@aol.com](mailto:BARstage@aol.com).

**Queer films '03**

## ◀ page 30

not turn out to be gay.

**Shattered Glass** Chafing under a regime that almost ejaculated to articles on ethanol subsidies, by the late '90s, the staff at *The New Republic* found a new guru in the person of a bespectacled young man. Stephen Glass (Hayden Christensen) churned out the kind of pop articles *Rolling Stone* puts between celebrity pinups and CD reviews. When they proved to be mostly fiction, the magazine found its survival very much at risk.

Gay filmgoers may see in Christensen's Glass the mixed-message vibes of a boyfriend from Hell. Billy Ray's direction kicks into high gear in a battle of wills between Glass and his editor, Chuck Lane (Peter Sarsgaard). Both leads ratchet up the emotional stakes until one almost yearns for a catharsis of manly violence that never comes.

**Freshmen Diaries** The first reality show that takes reality into account chronicles 12 students at the University of Texas' Austin campus (Showtime). Scenes captured by the students with camcorders, and by a crew, include a dorm party where Neil, a shy Midwesterner, is French-kissed by Luis, a sassy Mexican-American.

An aspiring painter and practicing ladies man, Kyle also comes

on to a young man, in a riff on the "Boy, was I drunk last night" syndrome. Kyle: "Why can't a gay guy think I'm cute?" Cole: "Maybe you should ask one who's not your roommate."

**Suddenly** Drab-looking shopgirl Marcia (Tatiana Saphir) is abducted by knife-wielding terrorists Mao (Carla Crespo) and Lenin (Veronica Hassan), and taken on a taxi ride to oblivion. Like her namesake, Mao is a bit of a sex pig, first seducing and then abandoning Marcia. Director Diego Lerman uses the backdrop of Argentina's ongoing love affair with Fascism as a backdrop.

**The Slaughter Rule** A debut film from brothers Andrew & Alex Smith that describes a very mean season in Montana's Big Sky country. Roy (a brave performance by Ryan Gosling) pushes his football coach, Gid (David Morse), to reveal a terrible secret about his life with another boy. The harsh Montana landscape, expressively photographed by Eric Edwards and scored with honky-tonk country music, becomes the ideal setting for a sensitive-man film, sponsored by Sundance daddy Robert Redford.

**Elephant & Zero Day** Gus Van Sant returns to making low-budget, passionate movies. *Elephant* is a twisted buddy film in which two 17-year-old boys exchange a kiss in the shower and then head for school to launch a Columbine-style attack on their



Gus Van Sant's *Elephant*: twisted.

classmates. Van Sant challenges audiences to decide for themselves what has been learned from this most American of calamities.

The fourth of the Columbine films, *Zero Day*, is an astutely observed minor classic in the neorealist school. It may seem far-fetched that Cal and Andre feel their school is occupied by forces hostile to them, but they do so feel. The film is flooded with memories of childhood's end, like Andre's talk of who did and didn't get invited to the prom, with his lone nod to Cal's beauty. "It must be your pretty-boy, blonde good looks." ▼

# Baby loves porn

**Best of the gay adult industry 2003**

by John F. Karr

When I first went to work for Bob Ross, he called me Baby. And sometimes Baby Doll or Sweetie. This despite the fact that I was already a 30-something.

Just several weeks ago, some 25 years later, when I saw Bob for what was to be my last time, and he asked how I was, I said, "Swell." And he said, "That's good, baby." Despite the fact that I'm now halfway through my 50s.

That was Bob. Anybody younger than himself was Baby. We used to laugh about that around the office. What we didn't laugh about was working for a publisher whose paper never folded, whose paychecks never bounced, who hired people he thought could do the job and then let them do it, and who, in his sometimes blustery but mostly benevolent way, ran the best damn gay paper in the country.

In our idle moments, Bob and I talked opera and ballet. And porn. He was well-informed on all three. When I arrived at the paper, I announced I was a theatre writer. "We've already got one of those, but would you like to write about porn?" Would I? Bob had only recently relinquished managing editor duties to Paul Lorch, and after some time, Paul asked me to head up the inauguration of the paper's new arts section; as the paper went weekly. Those were still the days when sexual activity, and lots of it, was a political statement. The back of the paper positively stood up with the photos of erect men I ran to illustrate my reviews.

Things are calmer now. But Bob's paper has always stood up for the idea that the printed word legitimizes as well as celebrates our sexuality. That might not have helped Bob's political aspirations. But it was a balm for us, Bob's babies one and all.

## Karrnal kudos

From the deluge of porn available, I pick the Best of the Year from a limited field: only those movies I wrote about. But before that list, here are some scattered kudos.

Cheers to Chip Daniels, for using a nearly invisible brand of condoms.

Boos to Ken Ryker, for *Ryker's Web*, the Worst Film of the Year.

Best Resurrection: Hot House Studio, back in full swing with its back catalogue reissued on DVD, and a new feature, appropriately titled *Resurrection*, that heatedly builds on its past (review coming soon!).

Best Long Blond Tresses: An-



Butch blond Trey Rexx is at full mast in Falcon Studios' *Big Timber*.

Courtesy of Falcon Studios

thony Shaw, emerging from the sea as a most glamorous merman in *A Man's Tail*.

Best Butch Blond: Trey Rexx, profligately squandering his beauty for a number of lesser companies. When will he allow full justice to be done, and get behind the artful cameras of Titan or Raging Stallion?

Best Reissue:  
TLA  
Video's

*Wakefield Poole Collection*. An archeological expedition to the roots of gay porn, superbly remastered and generous with documentation features.

Archeological Search Completed: I finally turned up a copy of the beautifully-filmed piss scene that was deleted when *El Paso Wrecking Co.* went to video. Now if only VCA would withdraw their shoddy current edition of the Gage Brothers' trilogy, and issue one with remastered sound and picture. Plus that scene.

Since all good things come in threes, here's the trio of triplets that make up my Best of the Best. My favorite three films were MSR's *The List* (featuring Mr. Rexx, Alex LeMonde, and the best scene of Jordan West's limited career); All World's reverential, romantic and raunchy *Sand Gods*; and Unzipped Video's passionately energetic [2] *The Movie*. You'll notice a trend here: hardly any plot, excellent music, and sexual events that unfold naturally. The performers click together, and you get the feeling the director isn't barking orders just off camera. ▼

## Classical best

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clear winners were Christopher Wheeldon's sexy *Polyphonia* and Alexei Ratmansky's hilarious *Le Carnaval des Animaux* (with Lorena Feijoo as the side-splitting Elephant). Andrew Mogrelia, the newly-appointed SFB music director, produced a stunning *Nutcracker* reading, giving me hope that the loss of Denis de Coteau

will soon be just a sad memory and not the musical catastrophe it was beginning to look like.

Though technically not in my bailiwick (even though I still believe it is an opera) I loved TheaterWorks' *A Little Night Music*, especially diva Charlotte Cornwell, who seemed to be channeling one of my favorite actresses, the late Coral Browne. The entire show reminded me once again of what an underappreciated genius Sondheim is.

Finally, among many memorable performances by San Francisco Symphony (including Chen Yi's sensational Percussion Concerto and Kaija Saariaho's "Du cristal"), I have to cite Pulitzer Prize-winner John Adams' "My Father Knew Charles Ives." Adams is the only smart, intellectual composer in the world today who isn't fearful of tarnishing his reputation by trying to communicate with his audience. And his stuff just sounds so damn good. ▼

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Tammie Nelson, left, was chosen IML and John Pendal was chosen IML during 2003 and both have done a great job representing the title and the leather communities of the world.

## Starting all over again

### Time to ring in the New Year

by Mister Marcus

The year 2003 comes to a close within seven days from today, and it has been another one to remember. Thousands and thousands of dollars were raised by leather people around the world, and countless man/woman hours were volunteered to make it all happen.

Contests took place around the world beginning in with Alvin York winning the MAL title in Washington, D.C. last January, and continuing to Indianapolis where Jim Nelson won the Mid-States Leather title only last month (formerly Tri-States Leather).

In between all that, there were bar, city, state and regional titles awarded to contestants whom judges perceived as worthy of the honor. The competitions came to climaxes that saw John Pendal (Mr. Hoist of London) becoming International Mr. Leather, as Tammie Nelson was named International MS. Leather. Mike Russell was chosen to be International Leather Sir and Boy Titus, International Leather Boy. Richie Chamery was named International Boot Black, and the female Boot Black's name escapes me at this deadline. Sheryl Dee, Bill Mitchell and Jeff Nowak were chosen American Leather Woman, Man and Boy, respectively,

in a California sweep of the titles, and Goddess Lakshmi was chosen Ms. World Leather.

Both the Folsom Street East in New York and the original Folsom Street Fair in San Francisco raised hundreds of thousands of dollars, and Folsom Street North in Canada seems to be on its way to becoming a major item on the calendar.

Santa's Saturday in New Hope, Pennsylvania, continues to be a big thing, and in San Francisco, Mama's family is rapidly accumulating some 2003 toys for kids in the Bay Area. The raising of the Leather Pride Flag in Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco kicking off Leather Pride Week with the Leather Walk was a maddening rush that raised hundreds of thousands during that week.

Gay politicians were elected in cities and states all over the country, and gay marriages, still lagging in most of the country, got a boost with Canada and Massachusetts lawmakers sanctioning the closest thing to a bona fide marriage.

We're not there yet, and the Federal Government's official stance is against us as verified by recent polls conducted even last week showing that the U.S. population is not yet ready to impart their blessings.

Lots of people were honored at the Pantheon of Leather in 2003,

all deserving I am sure. The future of the Mr. Cell Block Leather title (held that same weekend in the past) looks dubious in view of the change of ownership at that bar and the disgruntled leather people pulling out their colors and very unhappy with new policies there.

And speaking of contests, San Francisco held two city contests, one in March to name Troy Anicette Mr. SF Leather 2003, and again in September when Julian Marshburn prevailed and goes on to compete at IML 2004.

We were saddened over and over as we lost loved ones from our leather tribe to various ailments, and those closest to our departed brothers and sisters were quick to point out that they all fought bravely and courageously with lots of blood family and leather family support.

#### Support from all

Our major titleholders and all the rest have been quick to lend their support to events staged everywhere. IML John Pendal took a sabbatical from his job and turns up all over Europe, Canada and the U.S., and he is well received. He is a great master of ceremonies with a great sense of humor and is not averse to chatting with all who approach him. It was a great scene in San Francisco when he and Goddess Lakshmi commanded the 12th Street Stage at the Folsom Street Fair and introduced all the current leather title holders who were on page 35 ►

#### EVENTURES IN LEATHER

##### Saturday, December 27

The 15 Association's final play party of the year tonight at the usual location. \$15 admission. For info: 415-673-0452.

##### Sunday, December 28

Super Trash Night at the Powerhouse with a wet jockstrap contest and a \$100 cash prize for the winner.

##### January

The bare chest calendar contests resume this month on dates to be announced for the 2005 calendar. Don't be a wallflower. Flaunt it!

##### Saturday, January 10

Mr. San Francisco Leather Sir Tom Braddock celebrates his 40th birthday with a party at the Sling! Details to be announced.

In Los Angeles at the Gauntlet II, the first of some nine contests takes place with Mr. Gauntlet II

Leather tonight.

Sacramento Valley Leathermen install their new officers at The Bolt, followed by a bar crawl, back to the Bolt and a play party afterward.

*Painfully Obvious* is the title of Robert Davolt's book premiering at Daddy's from 1600 to 1900. Autographed copies, hullabaloo, forward and all that goes with it by high-ranking leather titleholders.

##### Weekend, January 9-11

New England Leather Alliance presents Fetish Fair Fleamarket at Boston Park Plaza Hotel. For info: [www.nla-newengland.org/fff.html](http://www.nla-newengland.org/fff.html).

##### Weekend, January 16-20

Centaur MC presents Leather Weekend featuring the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather Contest and a myriad of events to keep you pleased as only the Centaurs can do it. For info: [www.leatherweekend.com](http://www.leatherweekend.com).

## POLKSTRASSE

# A royal farewell

## Bob Ross was a great roommate!

**by Sweet Lips**

In New Year's Day, January 1, 2004, the Club Rendez-Vous (1312 Polk St.) and Imperial Court dignitaries Emperor 16 After Norton, Steven Rascher, and Yours Truly, Czarina Sweet Lips, will be hosting a 70th Birthday Bash for Empress Mame of Portland. I hope you'll all come down, because it promises to be a royal occasion. Of course there will be a lavish spread prepared by our favorite caterer, Dennis Tyler. The party runs from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and nobody will mind if you hang out longer!

On a more somber note, just a few comments about my publisher and friend, Bob Ross, who died last week.

We were sharing a house on Union Street when he and Paul Bentley got together to start the B.A.R. I was one of the group that started writing for it.

Bob was a great roommate, and when he made dinner at home, it was fabulous, and he had everything ready so that he could sit and eat with his guests.

But when he cooked in a



Bob Ross, Marlena and Sweet Lips in 2001: 'Bob was very good to me.'

restaurant, you wouldn't dare order a steak well-done, or it would end up flying around the kitchen! Right, Jay Noonan?

Bob was very good to me, and I have many fond memories of the time I shared with him. For instance, once at Safeway, someone was following us around,

and I asked Bob if that was his or my creditor. When the gentleman approached, he asked if I was Dick Walters (my other identity). Well, he took a picture out of his billfold and showed it to me: It was of me, taken in Palm Beach, Florida, in 1944. Well, Bob was beside himself! He couldn't believe anyone would carry a picture of me that long! I was cute then.

A lot of us are going to miss Bob, especially his talented staff at the B.A.R. ▼

**Cocktail Hour**

Mike Russell of San Diego, standing, was chosen International Leather Sir, and Boy Titus was chosen International Leather Boy in St. Petersburg, Florida in 2003.

event. Readers all over the world are quick to compliment the news you helped to produce.

So thanks you all for wonderful memories, some sad, some best not mentioned, but all im-

portant. Year 2004 is just around the corner and I know you'll all be ready for it. All I can say is keep loving, keep laughing, keep volunteering and keep caring... just do it in leather! ▼

**Valhalla voices****◀ page 29**

**The Artistry of Elly Ameling** (Philips 5-CD set) The radiant freshness of Ameling's soprano remains unequalled to this day. This collection includes many performances never before available on CD. Selections extend from a Bach cantata recorded in 1964 (when Ameling was a fresh-voiced 31) to songs set down at the peak of her vocal maturity. The prize is 11 Brahms lied from '77 and 19 Wolf songs from '70, all with Dalton Baldwin. Those

privileged to attend Ameling's recent Master Class at the San Francisco Conservatory witnessed first-hand her ability to spin out phrases with a caressing understatement that faithfully illuminates the text.

**Wagner: Die Walküre Lotte Lehmann, Lauritz Melchior, Vienna Philharmonic, Bruno Walter** (Naxos, 2 CDs) Naxos earns bouquets for bargain restorations of Acts I and II of this unforgettable *Walküre*. Begun in 1935 with Lehmann, Melchior, List and the Vienna Phil under Walter, it was finished in '38 with other forces after Lehmann, List, and Walter

fled Germany. The ecstatic Lehmann sings with naked intimacy, Melchior is unquestionably the greatest heldentenor on record, and Walter conducts to the manner born. Of supreme importance is Hans Hotter's first attempt at Wotan.

Act I has been on more "Top 10 Opera recordings" lists than there are items for sale on E-Bay. Search for the sonically compromised but nonetheless breathtaking recording of Act II with Lehmann, Melchior and Flagstad under Reiner live from San Francisco in '36 if you dare step even closer to Valhalla. ▼

**Year-End Blow-Out Clearance Sale**

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*Auld Lyne Suck Party  
New Year's Eve  
Dec. 31, Wed.  
door 9pm-4am, play till 6am  
Celebration at midnight!*

*New Year's Day  
Jan. 1, Thur.  
door 7:30pm-3am, play till late  
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photo (c) Brian Theis

# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare

by Mark Mardon

### NYE '04

**S**an Francisco's entertainment scene started off '03 with **Spencer Day** fresh from "Star Search," beginning what would become a musical love affair with San Francisco, focused primarily at **The Plush Room**. He and his jazz combo are all polish and perfection, reeling off standards and Day's original compositions with complete panache. The audience loves it when Day, who is one sexy dude, gets in a deep, tight groove with heart-throb cellist/guitarist **Yair Evnine**, he of the sultry looks and mop hair. Recently Day has revived his weekly "**Crimson Club**" on Saturdays at the Plush Room's "**Late Night at Empire**" performance showcase. The "Crimson Club" allows for all kinds of vaudevillian hijinks, headed up by Day's dashing Master of Ceremonies, **Brian Knecht**, and featuring the **Crimson Kittens** and other far-out acts. These late-night (11 p.m.) offerings are cheap (\$8) and draw a young crowd.

While the live-music scene in San Francisco is falling apart due to a general malaise, many great local bands are still plugging along, including **Pepperspray**, the best drag band in the world. Its members are **Peggy L'Eggs**, **Princess Kennedy**, **Precious Moments**, **Jordan L'Moore** and **Tinkle**, and if you miss them, you're missing history in the making.

My dear friend **Garrin Benfield** is one of the artists who continue to energize the community. It's been months since I've heard his amazing guitar and sweet voice, yet I'm sure he's playing better than ever, because that's the way he is, ceaselessly improving. I caught up with him and his retinue at the **Matt Gonzalez Victory Party** (that's how it felt at the time) and we all went to Blondie's afterwards, where Benfield and his squeeze **Jason Durant** plied me with drinks as a couple of their friends had a spat and broke up. That's life in the queer world.

My own music continues to enchant people most Sunday mornings in **Golden Gate Park**. For more than 20 years I've been playing my recorders in the tunnels and among the redwoods of **Strybing Arboretum** and the **AIDS Memorial Grove**. Thousands of tourists have taken my picture, hundreds have thanked me for my playing, and I've even been captured on an art film devoted to the tunnels of San Francisco. I don't really seek the attention; my playing is a form of meditation (though I often performed in cafes in the '80s), but attention invariably comes. If you want to hear me play, you can always join me first for "**Swimming Dragon**" **Tai Chi**, led by my amazing Quan Yin Healing Arts Center teacher **Liping Zhu**, a martial arts master from China. She does sword dance on occasion, a real treat to watch. The class takes place at 9:30 a.m. Sundays in GG Park in the area along JFK Drive where later in the day in-line skaters congregate and dance. You'll get to witness one of the most beautiful, powerful Tai Chi forms anywhere, as practiced by some very serious students, and I'll be glad to play for you afterward. Li Ping asks a donation of \$12, and I play for free.

If this doesn't sound like a thrill at the moment, just wait till after all the New Year's parties, then you'll be so grateful for the healing! ▼



The amazing 7 Fingers circus troupe fly through the air with the greatest of ease at the Palace of Fine Arts Theater. See Friday.

### Fri 26

#### 'The Very Vidur Show' @ Jon Sims Center

Jon Sims Center for the Arts (JSC) hosts India's only openly gay comic, Vidur Kapur, in his edgy production, "The Very Vidur Show," an urban, groundbreaking comedy. Vidur's edgy, urban, groundbreaking comedy focuses on his experiences as a gay Indian immigrant and his schizophrenic life as a conservative upper middle class Indian with a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, a misfit in a family focused on arranged marriages and caste status, a preppy graduate from The London School of Economics, a chic urban trend-crazy, fashion victim fag in West Hollywood and Manhattan, a drag queen with a multi-ethnic and multi-colored flair, a corporate executive in an internationally known firm, an 80's Boy George/Madonna wannabe freak, and a person horrified at being mistaken for a terrorist in a post 9/11 America. Vidur comically shares his experiences with issues including homophobia, racism, classism, sexism, cultural sensitivities, and gender identity in a performance that is personal, vulnerable, irreverent and brutally honest. Vidur Kapur was raised in India and has also lived in London, Chicago, Los Angeles and now lives in New York. He has trained in comedy with Larry Amoros (writer for *Rosie O'Donnell*) and worked with Tami Haleva, who has written comedy for David Lettermann and is staff writer for Caroline Rhee, will follow the performance. \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission St (btwn 11th St & South Van Ness) 8pm. Tix & advance for wheelchair access: 554-0402. Info: [www.jonsimscntr.org](http://www.jonsimscntr.org)

(The 7 Fingers of the Hand), featuring seven young international circus performers (Shana Carroll, Isabelle Chassé, Patrick Léonard, Faon Shane, Gypsy Snider, Sébastien Soldevilla, and Samuel Tétreault) creating a joyously surrealistic universe filled with awe-inspiring aerialists, amazing jugglers, graceful acrobats, and much wit and humor. \$30 adults; \$24 students/seniors (groups of 10 or more \$4 off per ticket). 8pm (2pm Sun). Dec. 26-Jan 3 (no show Mon). Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, 3301 Lyon St. (Marina District). Tix: City Box Office, 392-4400; [www.cityboxoffice.com](http://www.cityboxoffice.com); [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com)

by Swing OUT. 9pm-midnight party with three DJs and raffle give-away. \$10 donation (under 21 half off; volunteers free). SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: 305-8242; [www.queerjitterbugs.com](http://www.queerjitterbugs.com).

**'Score!' @ Club 220**  
Don Spradlin presents "Score!" featuring Special Guest DJ David Wade spinning progressive house on the main dance floor from 3am-close. DJ Derek Juan opens (1-3am). Cruise below in the dungeon where DJs include some of SF's newest, hottest talent: Steve Mercado (1-4am) & Mike Russell (4am-close). Upstairs VIP Lounge Hostess: Donna Sachet! Clientele: Cute, wet, hot. \$10 b4 1am; \$15 after. 18+w/ID. 220 Jones St. Info: [scorebig.net](http://scorebig.net)

### Sat 27

#### 'Holiday Swing Dance' @ The Center

Swing in the New Year with Queer Jitterbugs and Swing OUT at their "Holiday Swing Dance." 7:30pm basic lesson by Queer Jitterbugs. 8pm intermediate Charleston lesson

### Sun 28

#### 'Supertrash' @ The Powerhouse

Get an old-school education (or take a trip down memory

lane) in a special holiday edition of "TRASH" as DJ Bus Station John curates a special five-hour set of '70s/80s gay bar & bathhouse classics & curios. Featuring retro-homo sounds from the Trocadero Transfer (SF) to the Paradise Garage (NYC) and beyond. Wet jockstrap contest at midnight. \$100 cash prize; jox available. Benefits the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center (TARC). \$5 (free b4 9pm). 9pm-2am. 1347 Folsom St. (btwn 9th & 10th). Info: 552-8689.

#### 'Sushi Sunday' @ Milk

Reality Check TV presents "Sushi Sunday," an evening of sushi, live rock music, and kick-ass DJs. Enjoy the brilliant sounds of hit rock music, just out with Stagger & Belligerance on the Heyday Records label ([www.heyday.com](http://www.heyday.com)), plus other bands The Shimmyes, REIK, Barbara Steele and King 'o' Meet. Chef "shoge" serves tasty sushi at great prices, and DJ Ace of RCTV spins mainstream and indie rock before, between and after band sets, with DJ Ted Shred finishing the night. Doors open 4:30pm; ing goes on at 8:30pm. Milk, 1840 Haight St. (near Stanyan, across from Amoeba Records). Info: [www.realitychecktv.com](http://www.realitychecktv.com)

### Mon 29

#### 'Modern Times' @ Castro Theatre

Kino International presents a digitally restored print of the silent classic *Modern Times* (1936). Playing a tramp struggling to survive in a modern industrial society, Charlie Chaplin serves up an elaborate critique of the effects of mass production on 20th century humanity. Much slapstick around massive machinery. The Tramp ends up falling in love with a street wail played by Chaplin's then real-life partner Paulette Goddard. With a young Gloria DeHaven. \$8 (\$5 matinee/senior/child). Showtimes: 2, 4:30, 7, & 9:15pm. 429 Castro St. Info: 621-6120; [www.thecastrotheatre.com](http://www.thecastrotheatre.com)

**'In Bed With Fairy Butch' @ Club Galia**  
Vixen Creations presents "In Bed With Fairy Butch for Gals, Transfolks & Their Pals New Year Extravaganza!" Enjoy the sights as some of In Bed's extraordinary strippers bare what their mommas gave 'em! Pack your pockets with a parcel of ones, fives and other offerings. There'll be a break during the show to better facilitate your cruising, cocktail and comfort. Single? Come alone and play "Tingle & Mingle." Got a steady? Make it a memorable evening together at In Bed! Entry includes party favors, noisemakers, and a sex toy extravaganza raffle ticket. Late night after the show, DJ Atomic Pop spins Hip Hop, Disco, '80s R&B & Old School. Make reservations at [fb@fairybutch.com](mailto:fb@fairybutch.com) for early 8pm entry, complete with reservation-only hors d'oeuvre table and first crack at seating! \$20-\$15 sliding. Doors open at 8:30 pm, show at 10 pm. Club Galia, 2565 Mission St. (at 22nd St). Info: [www.sfgirlz.com](http://www.sfgirlz.com); [fairybutch.com](http://fairybutch.com)

**'Bacchanal' @ Fluid Ultra Lounge**  
DJs Ellen Ferrato and Frenchy le Freak offer sexy groovy house at Fluid's "Bacchanal," where you'll be transported back to ancient Rome's decadent world a-la Fluid's extravagant, spare-no-expense decor. Featuring a cast of Roman jugglers, fire breathers and merrymakers, with gourmet hors d'oeuvres and an open Champagne/wine bar during the entire night. \$15 advance.

**'Les FAUXties Fantastique' @ Actor's Theater**  
Opening night party: AahahZ, Inc. debuts "Les FAUXties Fantastique," a sexy gender-bending cabaret revue with a



Pamela Serrano and the AaaahZ Dancers debut "Les FAUXties Fantastique" at Actor's Theater. See Wednesday.

Fauxnique, and Eva Lynn Side. The contestants are Syphilis Diller, Jay Walker, Mildred Fierce, Tweaka Turner, Vanessa Avenue, Kemme Fatale, Diana McGuire, and Cookie Dough. Show at midnight. 399 9th (at Harrison). Info: [www.heklina.com](http://www.heklina.com)

### Wed 31

#### Marga Gomez New Year's Extravaganza @ Victoria Theatre

Happy New Queer Year! Theater Rhinoceros presents "The Marga Gomez New Year's Extravaganza," starring fierce, funny, foxy, sarcastic, stand-up Latina Lesbian Marga Gomez, plus the wickedly queer comedy of Doug Holclaw. Marga's comedy recording *Hung Like a Fly* is available on Upright Records. Her stand-up career was profiled in the 2003 documentary *Laughing Matters*; she is the writer/performer of six theatrical solo shows, including "The Twelve Days of Cochona." She's played way too many venues to list. Check this show out! \$25. Two shows: 7pm & 9pm. Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St. (btwn Mission & S. Van Ness, across from Theatre Rhinoceros). Info: [www.margagomez.com](http://www.margagomez.com); Tix: 861-5079 or [www.therhino.org](http://www.therhino.org)

#### 'Waltzes & Wildness' @ Victorian Englander House

"Waltzes and Wildness New Years Eve Gala," featuring Seth Montfort, Steven Bailey, Marc Steiner and others on piano. \$20-\$25. 10:30pm. Victorian Englander House, 807 Franklin St. (at Turk). Info: 362-6080; [www.siclassicalmusic.com](http://www.siclassicalmusic.com)

**'In Bed With Fairy Butch' @ Club Galia**  
Vixen Creations presents "In Bed With Fairy Butch for Gals, Transfolks & Their Pals New Year Extravaganza!" Enjoy the sights as some of In Bed's extraordinary strippers bare what their mommas gave 'em! Pack your pockets with a parcel of ones, fives and other offerings. There'll be a break during the show to better facilitate your cruising, cocktail and comfort. Single? Come alone and play "Tingle & Mingle." Got a steady? Make it a memorable evening together at In Bed! Entry includes party favors, noisemakers, and a sex toy extravaganza raffle ticket. Late night after the show, DJ Atomic Pop spins Hip Hop, Disco, '80s R&B & Old School. Make reservations at [fb@fairybutch.com](mailto:fb@fairybutch.com) for early 8pm entry, complete with reservation-only hors d'oeuvre table and first crack at seating! \$20-\$15 sliding. Doors open at 8:30 pm, show at 10 pm. Club Galia, 2565 Mission St. (at 22nd St). Info: [www.sfgirlz.com](http://www.sfgirlz.com); [fairybutch.com](http://fairybutch.com)

**'Trannyshack Star Search' @ The Stud**  
Who will be the next big Trannyshack star of 2004? Find out when Peaches Christ joins Heklina for "Trannyshack Star Search" in a wacky quest for new tranny talent. Heklina will be judging along with Peaches Christ,

Late night after the show, DJ Atomic Pop spins Hip Hop, Disco, '80s R&B & Old School. Make reservations at [fb@fairybutch.com](mailto:fb@fairybutch.com) for early 8pm entry, complete with reservation-only hors d'oeuvre table and first crack at seating! \$20-\$15 sliding. Doors open at 8:30 pm, show at 10 pm. Club Galia, 2565 Mission St. (at 22nd St). Info: [www.sfgirlz.com](http://www.sfgirlz.com); [fairybutch.com](http://fairybutch.com)

**'Les FAUXties Fantastique' @ Actor's Theater**  
Opening night party: AahahZ, Inc. debuts "Les FAUXties Fantastique," a sexy gender-bending cabaret revue with a



The world's greatest drag band, Pepperspray, rocks in the New Year at Ggreg Taylor's New Year's Eve Party. See Wednesday.

dazzling array of feathered dancers, glistening in sequins and rhinestones. Starring Pamela Serrano and the AaaahZ Dancers and some of SF's sexiest gender illusionists. Directed and choreographed by James DuBéq, with vocal direction by Jim Burris. [www.aaaahz.com](http://www.aaaahz.com) \$50 opening night; \$35 & \$40 other nights. 8pm. (7:30 & 10pm Fri & Sat; 2:30pm Sun). Thru Jan. 25. Actor's Theater, 533 Sutter St. (at Powell). Tix: 248-1942. Info: [www.aaaahz.com](http://www.aaaahz.com)

**Falcon's 'Flesh & Fantasy' @ mezzanine**  
mezzanine and Falcon Studios present "Flesh & Fantasy NYE '04," hosted by Falcon Studios Director Chi Chi LaRue, a 12-hour dance extravaganza featuring DJs Lydia Prim (New Orleans), Paulo (producer/remixer), and Jamie J. Sanchez (SF). Live on-stage: Star69 recording artist Suzanne Palmer ("Hide U" "Show Me"). Falcon Studios Superstars in person; get your picture with a porn star! Free Falcon giveaways. Dance floor powered by Funktion One. \$40 adv; \$50 door. 9pm-9am. 444 Jessie St. (at Mint). Tix: Body & Injealous. Info: [www.mezzaninesf.com](http://www.mezzaninesf.com)

**Metropolis NYE SF @ 550 Barneveld**  
Gus presents "Metropolis New Years Eve San Francisco," a 12-hour gay marathon

featuring the pumping sounds of Kimberly S (Sundance) and Neil Lewis (Sanctuary), with an exclusive live show by Gay Pimp ("Soccer Practice"). \$40 (\$55 2-Party Pass includes admission to Metropolis & Mass). 550 Barneveld St. (off Bayshore). Tix: Body-Wear, Body-Always-Tan & Trim, & Gold's Gym Castro. Info: [www.guspres.com](http://www.guspres.com)

#### Spundae New Years Eve @ 1015 Folsom

Spundae New Year kicks off with trance and progressive house in the Main Room with DJ Tall paul, plus Dave Ralph, The Scumfrog, and Gianni. In the Blue Room: prog house with Spesh, Jonathan Ojeda, Alex Whalen, and Scott Carrelli. Front Room: 5-hour house set by Garth, Frenchy Le Freak & Norman Stradley. Bassment Trance with St. John, Tom Slik, Denise (DJ D) & Rafael. Balloon drop/champagne toast at midnight. Party favors. Gogos. Lasers. Visuals. \$40 (\$99 VIP). 9pm-8am. 21+ w/ID. Info: [spundae.com](http://spundae.com); [1015.com](http://1015.com)

#### Ggreg Taylor's NYE '04 @ 44 Tehama

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Lords and ladies, naughty knaves and debauched damsels, ye are hereby summoned to our underground court, where fetish and fantasy reign, for a kinky coronation of the New Year! From Ggreg Taylor, Tafner & Juanita Morel (of the Forgotten Opera, Sol System and Booty Call) comes an excep-

tional New Years Eve party offering all things regal, risqué, kinky, and courtly. Costumes highly encouraged, though not required. Dress to impress. In the King's Chamber DJ sounds by Dragn'fly (Epiphany) • Laird (Boombox) • Lewis (Sugar) • Ron E (Vibrant) • Tafner (Sol System) • Tamo (Garage Mahal) • Ryel K (Pink Mammoth) with kinetic projections by Nambla the Clown. In Her Ladyship's Boudoir: DJs Juanita More, Derek B and Ken Vulture slam pussy bumping beats in the Booty Call Lounge. Performers, minstrels & fools: Jocasta (Trapeze World) astounds with aerial performance in the Kings Chamber • The Good Vibe Hoop Tribe (LA) spins in ways unimaginable. • Drag-rock sensation Pepperspray (Any Divebar) brings in the new year at Midnight. \$20 advance online (td); unlimited advance tickets \$30 in 2003, and \$40 in 2004. 9pm-12am. Location: 44 Tehama (at 1st St.). Tix: Café Flore (Market @ Noe) and BPM Records (573 Hayes). Info: [www.ggreg.com](http://www.ggreg.com)

#### 'Year of the Monkey' @ Club Six

Massive Selector presents "NYE 2004: Year of the Monkey!" Featuring the hottest DJs from Club Fafe, True-Skool, Fresco, and Fumando together with Massive Selector for the third straight year. In the Jungle Lounge: hip-hop, danchall, broken beats, and house with panty-ROBber, Malex, & Proof with

Kento, Yoshito, & Culture Shizam. In the Boogie Basement: 80's, electro-clash, and rock meet true skool breaks and Latin soul with Jenny & Omar, Ren the Archeologist Rueben, Hakobo, & Alan Keller. \$15 adv; \$25 door. 60 6th St. (btwn Market & Mission at Jessie). Tix: Redfive, 1472 Haight St., 552-6494; [Massiveselector.com](http://Massiveselector.com)

#### Page Hodel & Monika @ Michele's, Santa Rosa

The Other Side New Year's Eve Party! A dance party for Women and a few Gay men. In the Grand Ballroom, the Other Side unveils an evening of elegance and elevated nightculture, with ass-in-the-air, bootie-spankin', superlicious grooves by Master DJ Page Hodel and Super DJ Monika. Fingerlickin' gourmet hor d'oeuvres & Fantasy Desserts. 30 X 30 Dance Floor. Balloon Drop. Video Lounge. Four Full Bars. Other Side Dancers. \$25 in Advance, \$30 Door. Tix: Milk & Honey in Sebastopol, 824-1155; North Light Books in Cotati, 792-4300; Epiphany Musical Instruments in Santa Rosa, 543-7008. Michele's, W. 7th & Adams St. (by Railroad Square), Santa Rosa (50 min. north of the Golden Gate off 101). Info: [www.theothersidedance.com](http://www.theothersidedance.com)

We love to see you smile!

Photo: Steven Underhill.com

**SF BADLANDS** Dancing Every Night  
18th St. Nr. Castro

## Thu

#### 'One from the Heart' @ Castro Theatre

Francis Ford Coppola's *One From The Heart* (1982), a romantic comedy, musical fantasy, intimate love story set amidst the neon glitter of Las Vegas on a Fourth of July weekend, brilliantly shot by cinematographer Vittorio Storaro on exquisite sets created by Dean Tavoularis. Original soundtrack by Tom Waits, performed by Waits and Crystal Gayle. See Coppola's enchanted vision beautifully restored and re-edited. Teri Garr and Frederic Forrest are Franny and Hank celebrating the fifth anniversary of their relationship. An argument sends them into the night looking for love. Franny finds tall, dark, handsome Raul Julia (as a sensitive waiter), while Hank chances upon seductive runaway circus performer Nastassja Kinski. Ultimately, Franny and Hank find that true love must come from the heart. With Harry Dean Stanton and Lainie Kazan. Restored, Edited and Mixed at the studios of American Zoetrope in SF. Plays Thu-Wed, January 1-7. Showtimes: 2, 4:30, 7, & 9:30pm. Info: 621-6120; [www.thecastrotheatre.com](http://www.thecastrotheatre.com)

#### 'Mass' @ 1015 Folsom

Gus presents "Mass," the Recovery Party, a New Years Day T-Dance with renowned DJ Phil B. \$20 adv; \$30 door; \$55 two party pass. 6pm-2am. 1015 Folsom. Info: [www.guspres.com](http://www.guspres.com)

## WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon  
**Out & About**  
Bay Area Reporter  
395 Ninth Street  
San Francisco, CA  
94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

Golden Gate Performing Arts, Inc., & La Crema Winery Proudly Present the 14th Annual

# Home for the Holidays

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**SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS**

DR. KATHLEEN McGuIRE  
Artistic Director & Conductor

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2003**

Performances at  
5:00 PM, 7:00 PM, & 9:00 PM  
at the CASTRO THEATRE

TICKETS \$15.00 in advance  
\$20 at the door  
SFGMC Office — 4053 18th St., SF

by phone  
**415-865-3650**

or online at  
[WWW.SFGMC.ORG](http://WWW.SFGMC.ORG)

Tickets also available at:  
A Different Light Bookstore — 489 Castro St., SF

**E SFGMC SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS 26TH SEASON 2003**  
Featuring Special Guest  
Meg Mackay in:  
A Tribute to The Carpenters



co-presenters:  
**kinko's LOEHMANN'S AA LA CREMA**



Theatre Rhinoceros presents "The Marga Gomez New Year's Extravaganza" at the Victoria Theatre. See Wednesday.

# Syrian sojourn

by Jim Nawrocki

*Cleopatra's Wedding Present: Travels Through Syria* by Robert Tewdwr Moss; University of Wisconsin Press, \$24.95

t would be a disservice to call *Cleopatra's Wedding Present* a travel book. While it's true that Robert Tewdwr Moss' book is ostensibly a travel narrative, it's much more than that: a personal memoir, a study of sexuality and culture (in this case Arabic), and even a coming-out story. The book is part of the University of Wisconsin's series called *Living Out: Gay and Lesbian Autobiographies*. It has produced several outstanding volumes, including Martin Duberman's *Midlife Queer* and Jaime Enriquez's *Eminent Maricones*.

*Cleopatra's Wedding Present* is, sadly, Moss' first and last book. He was murdered in 1996, at the age of 35, shortly after completing work on the manuscript. The two boys who killed Moss in his London flat during the course of a burglary took the laptop computer that contained Moss' final revisions to the manuscript. When the laptop was recovered, the final manuscript had been erased, so editors had to rely on earlier versions to publish the book. The story of Moss' untimely death certainly colors the reader's experience of his book: there's particular poignancy to his descriptions of the pleasures of travel, and of course one wonders what Moss might have added to his final version. The book that we have, though, is testament to his considerable talents.

At the time he was writing *Cleopatra's Wedding Present*, Moss was coming to terms with his sex-

uality, and his interest in Arab sexual norms seems to be motivated as much by his own personal quest as by simple traveler's curiosity. Throughout the course of the book, Moss befriends a succession of intense, attractive young Arab men. He describes his encounters and relationships with these men with the attention of a novelist. For several nights, he shares a bed with a young man named Jihad. In their quiet time together, Moss admires the battle scar that runs across Jihad's chest, and he remarks often on his powerful body. Moss never admits to a sexual encounter with any of these young men, but they seem to regard each other with an intimacy that is both beautiful and mysterious.

Perhaps because of the strict

Syrian laws regarding sexuality in general and homosexuality in particular, Moss makes it a point to inquire about Syrian courtship rituals, both gay and straight. He visits gay cruising areas, and he talks with heterosexual men about the homosexual encounters they indulge in as a substitute for unavailable female companionship. Moss' meetings with his friends are always fraught with tension. As a foreign journalist traveling in the Middle East, Moss is constantly being watched by the authorities, who suspect him of spying. All of this serves to remind us that Syria is not just another country, and Moss is not the typical tourist.

While Moss concentrates primarily on descriptions of the places and people he meets, he



deftly weaves in accounts of the history and politics that haunt the regions he visits. He writes with impressive lyrical beauty about both the particulars of his journey and the universal pleasures of travel itself. "The awareness of transience is scarcely ever brought

home more poignantly than when traveling alone in a strange land," he writes. "To travel is to be always to some extent in a state of bereavement, always to have somebody die on you a little." This bit of sadness is complemented by the simple joy of wandering: Travel "enables you to be so deliciously passive, blown willy-nilly hither and yon. Come day, go day. Nothing really matters."

Unfortunately for us, Moss' journey comes to an end in more ways than one. *Cleopatra's Wedding Present* is evidence of a writer who possessed both a unique talent and a lively appreciation of the drama and beauty of life. These are the qualities that make not only great travel writers, but great writers. It's a shame that Moss' other books died with him. ▼

# Giving the gift of music

Box sets, hit packs, reissues & benefits out on CD

by Gregg Shapiro

In addition to being one of those gay men who need a *Queer Eye for the Queer Guy* overhaul, I was also born deficient in the shopping gene. So when it comes to the holidays, I go into automatic anxiety mode. Fortunately, I know that music makes a wonderful gift and give it as often as possible. Some suggestions follow regarding box sets, hits packages, reissues and benefit discs.

There are bound to be more than a few country music fans on everyone's holiday gift list, and

some recent collections are suitable for stocking stuffing. The 70-year-old country legend sings original compositions and cover tunes on *Willie Nelson's Greatest Hits (& Some That Will Be)* (Columbia/Legacy), including "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain," and "Mamas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys."

Just a few degrees separate Jessi Colter from Willie Nelson. In the late Waylon Jennings (Colter's husband), they found a frequent collaborator. *An Outlaw, a Lady: The Very Best of Jessi Colter* (Capitol) contains four Colter/Jennings collaborations, as well as "I'm Not Lisa," Colter's original 1975 hit single. Patsy Cline paved the way for Colter and other female country artists. The newly remastered *Patsy Cline's Greatest Hits* (Chronicles/MCA Nashville/Decca) features the original 1967 album artwork as well as expanded liner notes.

With *Taboo*, the musical about gay pop icon Boy George opening on Broadway, and a New Wave revival simmering under the radar, what better time to rekindle our love affair with Culture Club? Expanded reissues, with a minimum of four bonus tracks apiece, of Culture Club's first three albums — *Kissing to be Clever*, *Colour by Numbers* and *Waking Up with the House on Fire* (Virgin) — are the ideal gift for someone old enough to have been there, and for those too young to have experienced Culture Club. The bonus tracks make these reissues such good presents. *Kissing* includes "Time (Clock of the Heart)," *Colour* includes the live track "Melting Pot," and *Waking* features the two songs from the *Electric Dreams* soundtrack.

The works of Joni Mitchell and Bob Dylan, two of the most influ-

ential songwriters of the late 20th century, are available in new formats. Dylan albums ranging from '63's *Freewheelin'* Bob Dylan to 2001's *Love and Theft* have been reissued in the Super Audio CD format. Of the 15, mid-'70s masterpieces *Blood on the Tracks* and *Desire* (Columbia) sound especially good.

Dylan also figures into the four-disc box set *Joni Mitchell: The Complete Geffen Recordings* (Geffen/Chronicles). A demo version of "It's All Over Now Baby Blue" is one of three previously unreleased bonus tracks (the others are demos of "Good Friends" and "Two Grey Rooms"). This essential and long-awaited box set puts all of Joni's Geffen recordings — *Wild Things Run Fast* ('82), *Dog Eat Dog* ('85), *Chalk Mark in a Rainstorm* ('88) and *Night Ride Home* ('91) — back into circulation. Each disc is in its own original album art sleeve, and the 84-page booklet includes corresponding album graphics, as well as song-by-song commentary and a biting, brutally honest opening essay by Joni titled "The Lost Years," in which she lashes out against the "dungeons of Geffen Records."

## Essential James

James Brown and Donna Summer also crossed genres and boundaries to make indelible marks in music. The somewhat premature *50th Anniversary Collection* (Polydor/UTV) is a double-disc compilation of 50 essential James Brown tracks beginning with '56's "Please, Please, Please" and concluding with "Static, Parts 1&2" from '88. No matter where you stand on the subject of Donna Summer (me, I still feel betrayed), it's impossible not to take note of her pop-music contributions, and the two-disc set

*The Journey: The Very Best of Donna Summer* (UTV/Mercury) includes 18 examples, along with two new recordings. The second disc consists of five extended dance remixes that should make any disco devotee dizzy.

Music from the '70s almost always makes a popular gift. Gangster of love and space cowboy, '70s guitar god Steve Miller has expanded his 25-year-old greatest hits package to include '82's "Abracadabra" on *Young Hearts: Complete Greatest Hits* (Capitol) by Steve Miller Band. Few bands are more associated with the '70s than Abba. The DVD edition of *Gold: Greatest Hits* (Polar/Polydor/Chronicles) includes three previously unreleased music videos, the documentary *Abba: The History*, and nineteen Abba-holic favorites.

The 100 tracks on the four-disc box set *No Thanks! The '70s Punk Rebellion* (Rhino) are a combination of classic tracks by the Ramones, the Clash, Patti Smith, the Jam, Blondie, the Damned, Buzzcocks, Television, the Stranglers, Elvis Costello and X-Ray Spex, and lesser-known acts of the era such as the Boys, Penetration, Alternative TV, and the Slits. The compilers include "2-4-6-9 Motorway" by openly gay punk rocker Tom Robinson Band. The '70s also introduced us to sister act the Roches, a trio of harmonizing siblings named Maggie, Terri and Suzy, who wrote and sang some of the zaniest but lovely folk-based songs you've ever heard. *The Collected Works of the Roches* (Rhino/Warner Brothers) assembles 19 of the threesome's '70s-'90s tunes, including "The Married Men," "Love Radiates Around" and their stunning take on "The Hallelujah Chorus." ▼

know you have stumbled upon '70s disco supergroup *The Village People*, who are booked to do their stuff right up to the midnight countdown and balloon drop from the top of the hotel's 17-story atrium. If you're there to hear the VP do "In the Navy" and "Macho Man," you'll actually be partying in the world's largest hotel lobby, dude. But there's a VIP room, too. So Y not MCA? Tix are \$75; info at hyattsf.com. ▼

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## Out There

◀ page 26

ly made the Top 10 of the *Billboard* classical charts. Bravo!

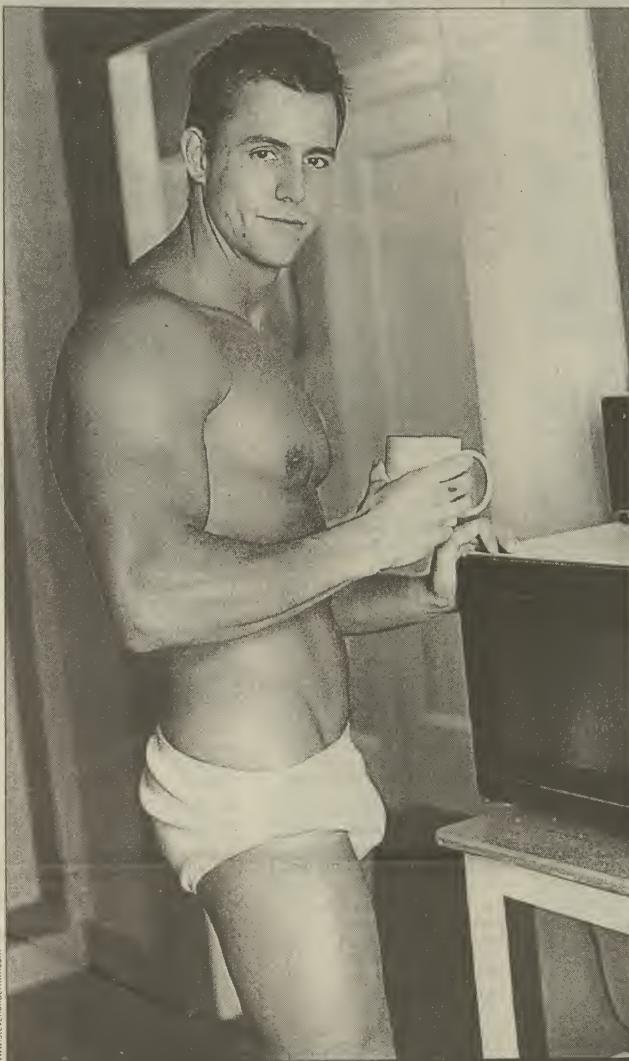
### Out-of-towners

San Francisco is always host to some special guests come Yuletide, and this year the list of visitors starts with comedy diva **Kathy Griffin**, who has achieved

something of a cult following as host of NBC's *Average Joe*. Miss Griff is booked to do the ol' two-a-day with her stand-up act on Dec. 26 & 27 at the new Cobb's Comedy Club, 915 Columbus Ave. Info at cobscomedy.com.

Then, if you happen to be at the SF Hyatt Regency's party this coming New Year's Eve, and you run into a construction worker, an American Indian, a military man, a cop, a cowboy and a biker, you'll

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**Richard - Hottie on Muni Inbound**  
It's David, the boy in tight Wranglers. We struck a chord. I'd like to strike more. Give me a call and leave your number. ☎ 72909

**Blow Buddies Friday Nov. 28**  
You bare-chested/shaved head, slim: me bare-chested with glasses. Would like to meet you. We cruised, but did not meet each other. ☎ 71000

**Ricardo**  
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Hairy Hunk 5'10, 180, Playful  
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E02

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E01

Body-Electric CMT offers hot Butt-  
Prostate massage, erotic enemas,  
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Full body, Hard, Deep and Sensual  
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Therapeutic 2 Erotic, Relaxing 2  
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Full-body sensual massage. 32, 6'1"  
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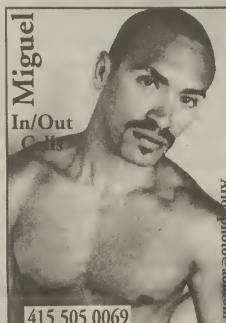
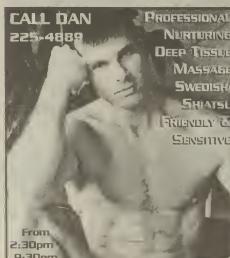
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**SENSUAL NUDE MASSAGE**  
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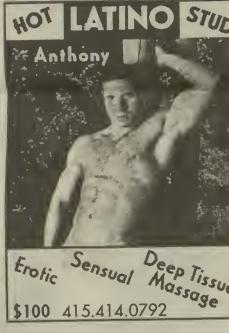
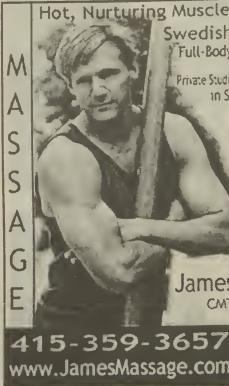
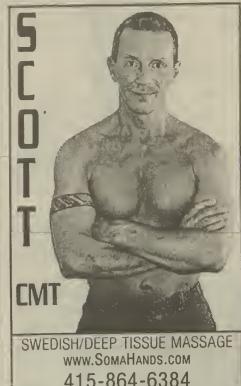
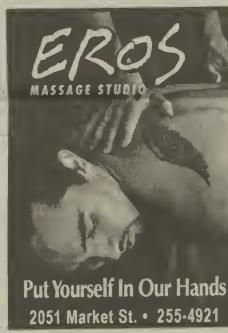
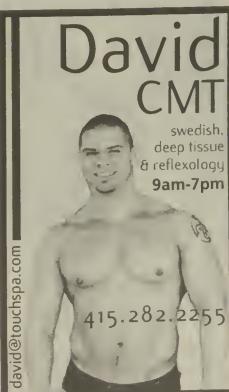
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\$80/\$100 \* JIM 269-5707

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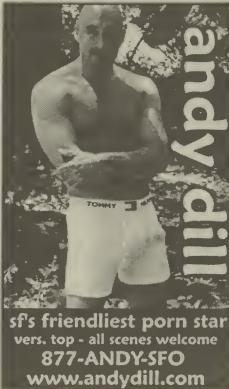
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21.5'11,150,cute,smooth,toned,Hung

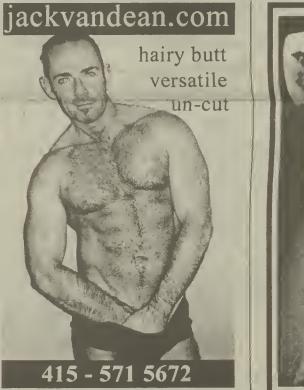
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E51

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E51

6'2"-160Lbs-Br/B/Hung 7-Cutie

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E03

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6-1,180#, muscular, 9inch cut,

29yrs, Top call Steve 415-595-3064

E52

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E52

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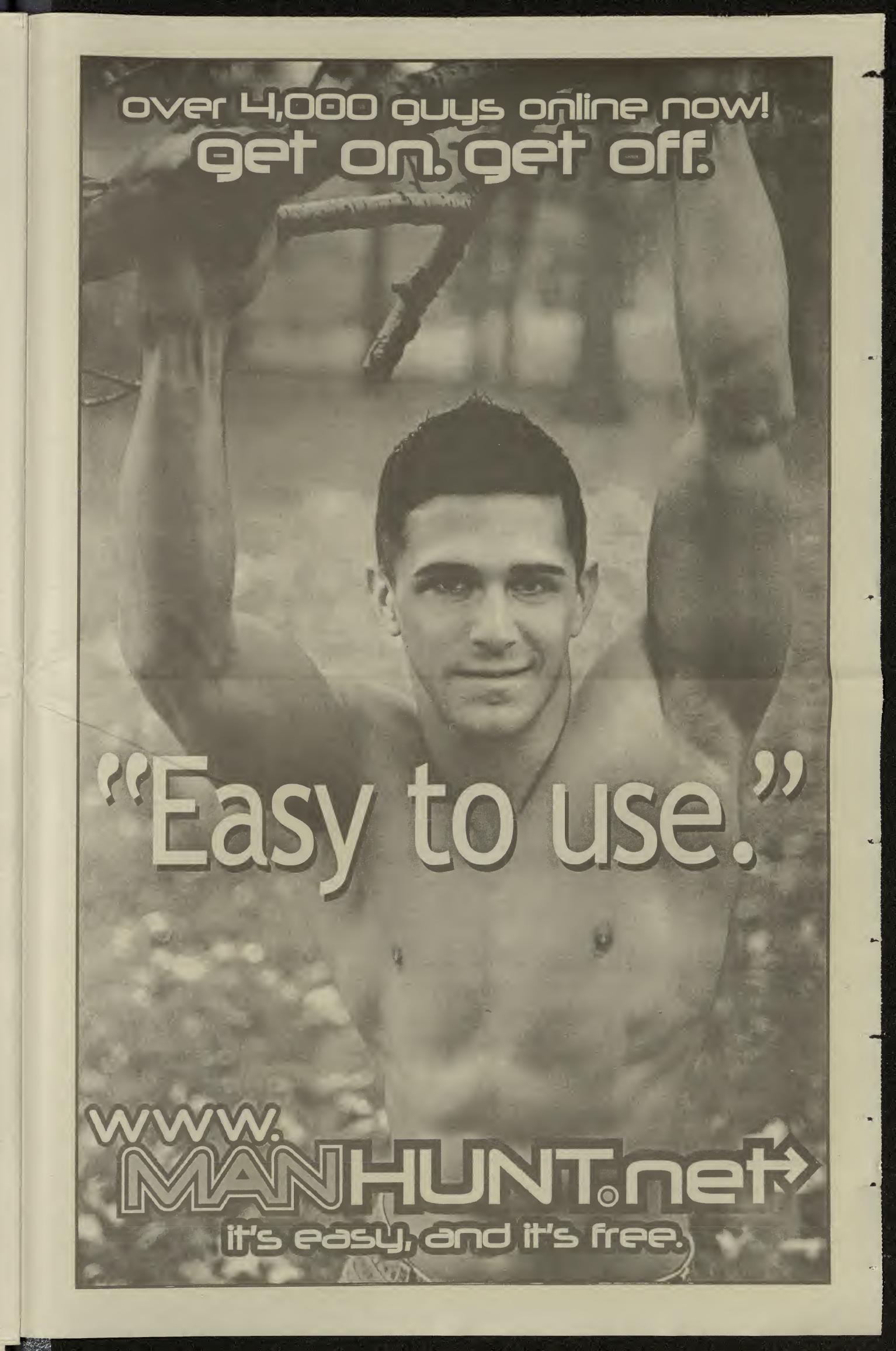
Powerhouse this month:

sunday 12/28  
SuperTrash...wet-jockstrap  
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Old school disco  
DJ Bus Station John, 9 pm

wednesday, 12/31.  
New Year's Eve 2004  
WET (showers w/a go-go boy)  
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*In Guerneville, the  
town that brings you*

## LAZY BEAR WEEKEND!

Photo by Dax Berg (DaxArt.com)



### POLAR BEAR SPECIAL

\$199 for two people  
3 Night Stay and Saturday Pasta Dinner

FEATURING:

- \* heated pool party
- \* movies in the lounge
- \* drink specials
- \* Live music Saturday night with  
**PLoughound** and **PEPPERSPRAY**

### New Years Eve Special

\$299 for two people  
3 Night Stay, NY Eve Dinner, Dancing, NY Brunch

707.869.0656  
[WWW.FIFES.COM](http://WWW.FIFES.COM)  
16467 HIGHWAY 116 . GUERNEVILLE



RIVER RESORT

www.RUSSIANRIVERRESORT.COM

### Your Home at the River!

Check Out the Newest Addition to  
Our Family! Now Open Every Night!



TEXAS BARBEQUE

(It should be called "Awesome Tims!")

Corner 4th & Mill Streets ~ Guerneville, CA ~ 1-800-4-1-RESORT



### Where Bears DARE to be BARE!

(Although we'd suggest a warm & fluffy robe for  
going to our clothing optional hot tub!  
And maybe some slippers.)

Cabins & Rooms with Fireplace

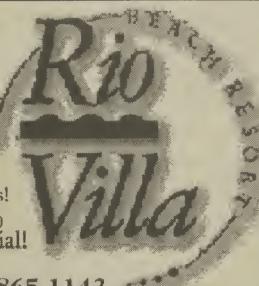
HIGHLANDS  
RESORT

### Winter Special!

(sorry, not available on holiday/event weekends!  
707.869.0333  
www.HIGHLANDSRESORT.COM

### ROMANCE AT THE RIVER!

A crackling fire, cosy bed  
and a view of the river  
just bring your favorite Bear  
& make some memories!  
(or take some polaroids!)  
Ask about our Winter Special!



www.RioVILLA.COM

707.865.1143

For more information contact Russian River Chamber of Commerce at 1-877-644-9001 • [www.russianriver.com](http://www.russianriver.com)